Plautus

Complete Works

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PLAUTUS

(c. 254–184 BC)

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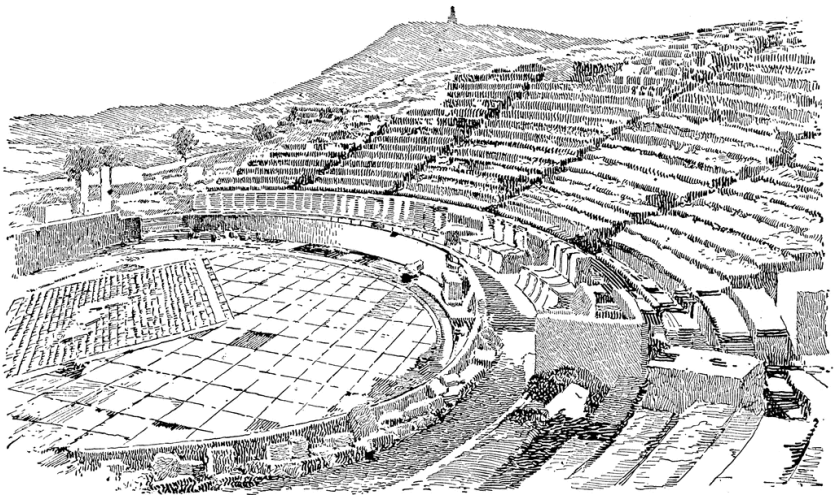
The Complete Works of

TITUS MACCIUS PLAUTUS



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First published in the United Kingdom in 2016 by Delphi Classics.

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ISBN: 978 1 78656 380 4

Delphi Classics

is an imprint of

Delphi Publishing Ltd

Hastings, East Sussex

United Kingdom

Contact: sales@delphiclassics.com

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The Translations

Sarsina, a town situated in the province of Forlì-Cesena, Emilia-Romagna, northern Italy — Plautus' birthplace

AMPHITRYON

Translated by Henry Thomas Riley

Amphitryon is Plautus' only play on a mythological subject, which the playwright refers to as a tragic comedy in the prologue. The majority of the text survives, but includes several large missing sections in its latter portion. The plot involves Amphitryon's jealous and confused reaction to Alcmena's seduction by Jupiter and ends with the birth of Hercules.

Some scholars believe the play was sourced from a lost work of Middle Comedy. The line between Old and Middle Comedy is not clearly marked chronologically, so that Aristophanes and some late writers of the Old Comedy are sometimes regarded as the earliest Middle Comic poets. For ancient scholars, the term may have meant little more than "later than Aristophanes and his contemporaries, but earlier than Menander". Middle Comedy is generally regarded as differing from Old Comedy in three ways: the role of the chorus was diminished to the point where it had no influence on the plot; public characters were not impersonated or personified onstage; and the objects of ridicule were general rather than personal, literary rather than political. For at least a time, mythological burlesque was popular among the Middle Comic poets. Stock characters of all sorts also emerge: courtesans, parasites, revellers, philosophers, boastful soldiers, and especially the conceited cook with his parade of culinary science. As no complete Middle Comic plays have been preserved in Greek, it is difficult to offer any real assessment of their literary value or "genius". However, Plautus' *Amphitryon* certainly illustrates many of the genre's notable features.

Ancient depiction of a scene from the Amphitryon myth

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Terracotta comic theatre mask, 4th/3rd century BC. Stoa of Attalus, Athens

THE SUBJECT

CREON, King of Thebes, being at war with the Teleboans or Taphians, under the command of Ptereias, sends an army against them. This is commanded by Amphitryon, who leaves his wife Alcmena pregnant at his departure from Thebes. During his absence from home, Jupiter, assuming his form, and Mercury that of his servant Sosia, present themselves to Alcmena, as though just returned from the expedition against the Taphians. By means of this stratagem, Jupiter is admitted to the embraces of Alcmena. While Mercury is keeping watch at the door of Amphitryon's house, Sosia, who has just arrived at Thebes with Amphitryon, makes his appearance for the purpose of announcing to Alcmena his master's return. Mercury, pretending that he himself is the real Sosia, and that the other is an impostor, drives him away from the door. He goes back to his master, who returns with him to the house, and on meeting Alcmena, she denies his assertion that he has but that moment returned from the expedition, and now presents himself to her for the first time since his return. On this, Amphitryon charges her with infidelity, and goes away to the harbour to find a witness who may persuade Alcmena of the truth of his assertions. When he returns, he is first driven away from the house by Mercury, and is afterwards accused by Jupiter of attempting to personate Amphitryon, which person Jupiter asserts himself to be. The dispute is referred to Blepharo, the pilot of Amphitryon, who. after making minute enquiries into the matter, professes himself utterly unable to decide between them. In the Fifth Act, at the moment in which Alcmena is delivered of Hercules and Iphiclus, a violent. peal of thunder is heard, and Amphitryon swoons with the shock. Bromia, the attendant of Alcmena, comes out of the house, and having raised Amphitryon from the ground, on his recovery informs him of the delivery of Alcmena. At this juncture, Jupiter descends in his own character, and reveals the mystery to Amphitryon, who then becomes reconciled with his wife.

THE ACROSTIC ARGUMENT.

[Supposed to have been written by Priscian the Grammarian.]

JUPITER, being captivated by love (Amore) for Alcmena, has changed (Mutavit) himself into the form of her husband, while Amphitryon is fighting for (Pro) his country with the foe; in the form (Habitu) of Sosia, Mercury acts as his servant. He (Is) imposes upon the master and the servant, on their arrival. Amphitryon commences a quarrel (Turbas) with his wife; and Jupiter and Amphitryon seize (Raptant) one another as adulterers. Blepharo, chosen as umpire, is not able to determine which of the two (Uter) is Amphitryon. At last they understand all (Omnem) the matter; and she brings forth twins.

ACT I.

THE PROLOGUE.

MERCURY

As, in purchasing and selling your merchandize, you are desirous to render me propitious to your bargains, and that I should assist you in all things; and as both in foreign countries and at home, you desire me to turn to the best advantage the business and the accounts of you all, and that with fair and ample profit, without end, I should crown the venture both which you have begun, and which you shall begin; and as you wish me to delight you and all yours with joyous news — these tidings will I bring, that I may announce them to you, things which in especial are for your common interest (for already do you know, indeed, that it has been given and assigned to me by the other Divinities, to preside over news and profit): : as you would wish me to favour and promote these things, that lasting gain may ever be forthcoming for you, so shall you give silence for this play, and so shall you be fair and upright judges here, all of you. Now, by whose command, and for what reason I am come, I'll tell you, and at the sane time, myself, I will disclose my name. By the command of Jupiter I am come; my name is Mercury. My father has sent me hither to you to entreat, although, what should as his commands be enjoined on you, he knew that you would do, inasmuch as he knew full well that you venerate and fear himself, as is befitting Jupiter. But, certainly, he bade me ask this of you with entreaty, in gentle tones, and in bland accents. For, in fact, this Jupiter, by whose command I am come, dreads a mishap not less than any one of you. Born of a mortal mother, a mortal sire, it is not reasonable to be surprised if he has apprehensions for himself. And I too, as well, who am the son of Jupiter, through my relationship to my father, stand in dread of ill. Therefore, in peace am I come to you, and peace do I bring. I wish a thing to be asked of you that's reasonable and feasible; for, reasonable things to ask of the reasonable, a reasonable mediator have I been sent. For from the reasonable it is not right to ask things unreasonable; whereas from the unreasonable to ask things

reasonable, is sheer folly, since these unrighteous persons are ignorant of what is right, and observe it not. Now then, all lend your attention here to the things which I shall say. What we wish, you ought to wish as well: both I and my father have well deserved of you and of your state. But why should I mention how in Tragedies I have seen others, such as Neptune, Valour, Victory, Mars, Bellona, making mention of the good services which they had done you? Of all these benefits, the ruler of the Deities, my sire, was the founder. But this has never been the habit of my father, to throw in your teeth what good he has done unto the good. He thinks that this is gratefully returned by you to him, and that he bestows these blessings on you deservedly, which he does bestow. Now, the matter which I came here to ask, I'll first premise, after that I'll tell the subject of this Tragedy. Why have you contracted your brows? Is it because I said that this would be a Tragedy? I am a God, and I'll change it. This same, if you wish it, from a Tragedy I'll make to be a Comedy, with all the lines the same. Whether would ye it were so, or not? But I'm too foolish; as though I didn't know, who am a God, that you so wish it; upon this subject I understand what your feelings are. I'll make this to be a mixture — a Tragi-comedy. For me to make it entirely to be a Comedy, where Kings and Gods appear, I do not deem right. What then? Since here the servant has a part as well, just as I said, I'll make it to be a Tragi-comedy. Now Jupiter has ordered me to beg this of you, that the inspectors should go among each of the seats throughout the whole theatre, amid the spectators, that, if they should see any suborned applauders of any actor, there should in the theatre be taken away from them the pledge of their coats, as a security for their good behaviour. But if any should solicit the palm of victory for the actors, or if for any artist, whether by written letters, or whether any person himself should solicit personally, or whether by messenger; or if the Ædiles, too, should unfairly adjudge to any one the reward; Jupiter has commanded the law to be the same as if he had sought by solicitation an appointment for himself or for another. By valour has he declared that you exist as victors, not by canvassing or unfair dealing. Why any the less should there be the same principle for the player, which there is for the greatest man? By merit, not by favourers, ought we to seek our ends. He who does

aright has ever favourers enough, if there is honesty in them in whose disposal this matter rests. This, too, he directed me likewise in his injunctions, that there should be inspectors over the players; that, he who should have procured suborned persons to applaud himself, or he who should have contrived for another give less satisfaction, from the same they might strip off his dress and leather mask. I don't wish you to be surprised, for what reason Jupiter now concerns himself about actors. Don't be surprised, Jupiter himself is about to take part in this play. Why are you wondering at this? As though, indeed, a new thing were now mentioned, that Jupiter takes to the calling of a player. But a year since, when here on the stage the actors invoked Jupiter, he came; he aided them. Besides, surely in Tragedy he has a place. This play, I say, Jupiter himself will take a part in this day, and I together with him. Now do you give attention while I shall relate to you the subject of this Comedy.

This city is Thebes; in that house there *pointing* , Amphitryon dwells, born at Argos, of an Argive sire; whose wife is Alcmena, daughter of Electryon. This Amphitrvon is now the general of the Theban troops; for between the Teleboans and the Theban people there is war. He, before he departed hence for the expedition, left his wife Alcmena pregnant. But I believe that you already know how my father is disposed how free in these affairs he has been, and how great a lover of many a woman, if any object once has captivated him. Unknown to her husband, he began to love Alcmena, and took temporary possession of her person for himself, and made her pregnant, too, by his embrace. Now, that more fully you may understand the matter with respect to Alcmena, she is pregnant by both; both by her husband and by supreme Jupiter And my father is now lying here *he points to the house* in-doors with her; and for this reason is this night made longer, while he is taking this pleasure with her whom he desires. But he has so disguised himself, as though he were Amphitryon. Now, that you may not be surprised at this dress of mine, inasmuch as I have come out here this way in servile garb, an ancient and an antique circumstance, made new, will I relate to you, by reason of which I have come to you attired in this new fashion; for lo! my father Jupiter, now in the house, changes himself into the

likeness of Amphitryon, and all the servants who see him think it is he, so shifting in his shape does he render himself when he chooses. I have taken on myself the form of the servant Sosia, who has gone hence together with Amphitryon on the expedition, that I may be able to serve my father in his amour, and that the servants may not be enquiring who I am, when they see me here frequenting oft the house. Now, as they will suppose me a servant and their fellow-servant, not any one will enquire who I am, or why I'm come. My father, now in-doors, is gratifying his inclination, and is embracing her of whom he is especially enamoured. What has been done there at the army, my father is now relating to Alcmena. She, who really is with a paramour, thinks that he is her own husband. There, my father is now relating how he has routed the legions of the enemy; how he has been enriched with abundant gifts. Those gifts which there were given to Amphitryon, we have carried off; what he pleases, my father easily performs. Now will Amphitryon come hither this day from the army, his servant too, whose form I am bearing. Now, that you may be able the more easily to distinguish between us, I always shall carry these little wings here *pointing* upon my broad-brimmed cap; then besides, for my father there will be a golden tuft beneath his cap; that mark will not be upon Amphitryon. These marks no one of these domestics will be able to see; but you will see them. But yonder is Sosia, the servant of Amphitryon; he is now coming yonder from the harbour, with a lantern. I will now drive him, as he arrives, away from the house. Attend, it will be worth the while of you spectators, for Jupiter and Mercury to perform here the actors' part.

Enter SOSIA, with a Lantern.

SOSIA

to himself . What other person is there more bold than I, or who more stout of heart, who know the humours of young men, and who am walking at this hour of night alone? What shall I do, if now the officers of the watch should thrust me into prison. To-morrow shall I be dealt out from there, just as though from a store-closet, for a whipping; nor will it be allowed me to plead my cause, nor will there be a bit of aid from my master; nor will there be a person but that

they will imagine, all of them, that I am deserving. And so will eight sturdy fellows be thumping on wretched me just like an anvil; in this way, just come from foreign parts, I shall be received with hospitality by the public. The inconsiderateness of my master compels me to this, who has packed me off from the harbour at this time of night whether I would or no. Couldn't he as well have sent me here by daylight? For this reason, is servitude to a man of high station a greater hardship; for this reason is the servant of a wealthy man the more wretched: both night and day, without ceasing, there is enough, and more than enough of work for him; for doing or for saying occasion is ever arising, so that you can't be at rest. The master, abounding in servants, and free from labour himself; thinks that whatever he happens to choose, can be done; he thinks that just, and reckons not what the labour is; nor will he ever consider whether he commands a thing that's reasonable or unreasonable. Wherefore, in servitude many hardships do befall us; in pain this burden must be borne and endured.

MERCURY
(*to the AUDIENCE*). 'Twere with better reason for me to complain of servitude after this fashion; I, who to-day was free, and whom my father is now employing as a slave: this fellow is complaining, who was born a slave.

SOSIA
to himself . Really I am a rascal beyond a doubt; for only this moment it has suggested itself to me, that on my arrival I should give thanks, and address the Gods for their kindnesses vouchsafed. For surely, by my troth, if they were only desirous to give me a return according to my deserts, they would commission some person on my arrival soundly to box my ears, since those kindnesses which they have done me I have held as worthless and of no value.

MERCURY
apart . He does what people are not generally in the habit of doing, in knowing what his deserts are.

SOSIA

to himself . What I never expected, nor any one else of my townsmen, to befall him, that same has come to pass, for us to come home safe and sound. Victorious, the enemy conquered, the troops are returning home, this very mighty war brought to an end, and the enemy slain. A city that has caused many a bitter death for the Theban people, that same has been conquered by the strength and valour of our soldiers, and taken by storm, under the command and conduct of my master Amphitryon in especial. With booty, territory, and glory, too, has he loaded his fellow-citizens, and for Creon, King of Thebes, has he firmly fixed his sway. From the harbour he has sent me before him to his house that I may bear these tidings to his wife, how he has promoted the public good by his guidance, conduct, and command. This now will I consider, in what manner I shall address her, when I've arrived there. If I tell a falsehood. I shall be doing as I am accustomed after my usual wont; for when they were fighting with all their might, then with all my might I ran away. But still I shall pretend as though I was present, and I'll tell her what I heard. But in what manner and with what expressions it is right for me to tell my story, I still wish first to consider here with myself. *He assumes an attitude of thought.* In these terms will I give this narrative. "In the first place, when we arrived there, when first we made land, Amphitryon immediately made choice of the powerful men among the chieftains. Those he despatched on the embassy, and bade them tell his mind to the Teleboans; that if without constraint and without warfare they should be ready to deliver up what was plundered and the plunderers, and if they should be ready to restore what they had carried off, he would immediately conduct the army homewards, that the Greeks would depart from their territory, and that he would grant peace and quietness to them : but if they should be otherwise disposed, and not concede the things which he demanded, he, in consequence, would attack their city with extreme violence and with his men. When the embassadors had repeated these things, which Amphitryon had enjoined, in order to the Teleboans, being men stout of heart, relying on their valour, and confident in their prowess, they rebuked our embassadors very rudely. They answered that they were able in warfare to protect themselves and

theirs, and that at once they must lead the army with all haste out of their territories. When the embassadors brought back this message, straightway Amphitryon drew out all his army from the encampment; on the other side, the Teleboans led forth their legions from the town, furnished with most gorgeous arms. After they had gone forth on either side in full array, the soldiers were marshalled, the ranks were formed. We, after our manner and usage, drew up our legions; the enemy, too, drew up their legions facing us. Then either general went forth into the mid-space beyond the throng of the ranks, and they parleyed together. It was agreed between them, that, which ever side should be conquered in that battle, they should surrender up their city, lands, altars, hearths. and theraselves. After that was done, the trumpets on either side gave the signal; the earth re-echoed, they raised a shout on either side. Each general, both upon this side and on that, offered vows to Jupiter, and then encouraged his troops. Each man according to his ability does that which each one can and has the strength to do; he smites with his falchion; the weapons crash; the welkin bellows with the uproar of the men; of breaths and pantings a cloud is formed; men fall by wounds inflicted by men. At length, as we desired, our troops conquered; the foe fell in numbers; ours, on the other hand, pressed on; firm in our strength, we were victorious. But still not one betook himself to flight, nor yet gave way at his post, but standing there he waged the combat. Sooner than quit the spot, they parted with their lives; each, as he stood, lay there and kept his rank in death. When my master Amphitryon saw this, at once he ordered the cavalry on the right to charge. The cavalry obeyed directly; from the right wing, with a tremendous shout, with brisk onset they rushed on; and rightfully did they slaughter and trample down the impious forces of the foe."

MERCURY
apart . Not even one word of these has he yet uttered correctly; for I was there in the battle personally, and my father too, when it was fought.

SOSIA
continuing . "The enemy betook themselves to flight. Then was new

spirit added to our men, the Teleboans flying, with darts were their bodies filled, and Amphitryon himself, with his own hand, struck off the head of Pterelas their king. This battle was being fought there even from the morning till the evening. This do I the better remember for this reason; because on that day I went without my breakfast. But night at last, by its interposing, cut short this combat. The next day, the chiefs came weeping from the city to us at the camp. With covered hands, they entreated us to pardon their offences; and they all surrendered rendered up themselves. and all things divine and human, their city and their children, into the possession and unto the disposal of the Theban people. Lastly, by reason of his valour, a golden goblet was presented to my master Amphitryon, from which king Pterelas had been used to drink." These things I'll thus tell my mistress. I'll now proceed to obey my master's order and to betake me home. *He moves.*

MERCURY
apart . Heyday! he's about to come this way; I'll go meet him; and I'll not permit this fellow at any time to-day to approach this house. Since I have his form upon myself, I'm resolved to play the fellow off. And indeed, since I have taken upon me his figure and his station, it is right for me likewise to have actions and manners like to his. Therefore it befits me to be artful, crafty, very cunning, and by his own weapon, artfulness, to drive him from the door. But what means this? He is looking up at the sky. I'll watch what scheme he's about.

SOSIA
looking up at the sky . Upon my faith, for sure, if there is aught besides that I believe, or know for certain, I do believe that this night the God of Night has gone to sleep drunk; for neither does the Wain move itself in any direction in the sky, nor does the Moon bestir herself anywhere from where she first arose; nor does Orion, or the Evening Star, or the Pleiades, set. In such a fashion are the stars standing stock-still, and the night is yielding not a jot to the day.

MERCURY

apart . Go on, Night, as you've begun, and pay obedience to my father. In best style, the best of services are you performing for the best of beings; in giving this, you reap a fair return.

SOSIA
to himself . I do not think that I have ever seen a longer night than this, except one of like fashion, which livelong night I was hanging up, having been first whipped. Even that as well, by my troth, does this one by far exceed in its length. I' faith, I really do believe that the Sun's asleep, and is thoroughly drenched. It's a wonder to me if he hasn't indulged himself a little too much at dinner.

MERCURY
apart . Do you really say so, you scoundrel? Do you think that the Gods are like yourself? I' faith, you hang-dog, I'll entertain you for these speeches and misdeeds of yours; only come this way, will you, and you'll find your ruin.

SOSIA
to himself . Where are those wenchers, who unwillingly lie a-bed alone? A rare night this for making the best of what was a bad bargain at first.

MERCURY
apart . My father then, according to this fellow's words, is doing rightly and wisely, who in his amorousness, indulging his passion, is lying in the embraces of Alcmena.

SOSIA
to himself . I'll go tell Alcmena, as my master ordered me. *(Advancing, he discovers MERCURY.)* But who is this fellow that I see before the house at this time of night? I don't like it.

MERCURY
aside . There is not in existence another such cowardly fellow as this.

SOSIA
aside . Now, when I think of it, this fellow wishes to take my mantle

off once more.

MERCURY
aside . The fellow's afraid; I'll have some sport with him.

SOSIA
aside . I'm quite undone, my teeth are chattering. For sure, on my arrival, he is about to receive me with the hospitality of his fist. He's a merciful person, I suppose; now, because my master has obliged me to keep awake, with his fists just now he'll be making me go to sleep. I'm most confoundedly undone. Troth now, prithee, look, how big and how strong he is.

MERCURY
aside . I'll talk at him aloud, he shall hear what I say. Therefore indeed, in a still greater degree, shall he conceive fears within himself. *In a loud voice, holding up his fists.* Come, fists, it's a long time now since you found provision for my stomach; it seems to have taken place quite a long time ago, when yesterday you laid four men asleep, stript naked.

SOSIA
aside . I'm dreadfully afraid lest I should be changing my name here, and become a Quintus instead of a Sosia. He declares that he has laid four men asleep; I fear lest I should be adding to that number.

MERCURY
throwing about his arms . Well, now then for it. This is the way I intend.

SOSIA
aside . He is girded tight; for sure, he's getting himself ready.

MERCURY
He shan't get off without getting a thrashing.

SOSIA
aside . What person, I wonder? MERC. Beyond a doubt, whatever

person comes this way, he shall eat my fists.

SOSIA
aside . Get out with you, I don't wish to eat at this time of night; I've lately dined. Therefore do you, if you are wise, bestow your dinner on those who are hungry.

MERCURY
The weight of this fist is no poor one.

SOSIA
aside . I'm done for; he is poising his fists.

MERCURY
What if I were to touch him, stroking him down, so that he may go to sleep?

SOSIA
aside . You would be proving my salvation; for I've been watching most confoundedly these three nights running.

MERCURY
My hand refuses to learn to strike his cheek; it cannot do a disgraceful action. Hand of mine, of a changed form must he become whom you smite with this fist.

SOSIA
aside . This fellow will be furbishing me up, and be moulding my face anew.

MERCURY
to his fist . The man that you hit full, his face must surely be boned.

SOSIA
aside . It's a wonder if this fellow isn't thinking of boning me just like a lamprey. Away with a fellow that bones people! If he sees me, I'm a dead man.

MERCURY
Some fellow is stinking to his destruction.

SOSIA
aside . Woe to me! Is it I that stink?

MERCURY
And he cannot be very far off; but he has been a long way off from here.

SOSIA
aside . This person's a wizard.

MERCURY
My fists are longing.

SOSIA
aside . If you are going to exercise them upon me, I beg that you'll first cool them down against the wall.

MERCURY
A voice has come flying to my ears.

SOSIA
aside . Unlucky fellow, for sure, was I, who didn't clip its wings. I've got a voice with wings, it seems.

MERCURY
This fellow is demanding of me for himself a heavy punishment for his beast's back.

SOSIA
aside . As for me, I've got no beast's back.

MERCURY
He must be well loaded with my fists.

SOSIA

aside . I' faith, I'm fatigued, coming from board ship, when I was brought hither; even now I'm sea-sick. Without a burden, I can hardly creep along, so don't think that with a load I can go.

MERCURY
Why, surely, somebody is speaking here.

SOSIA
aside . I'm all right, he doesn't see me; he thinks it's "Somebody" speaking: Sosia is certainly my name.

MERCURY
But here, from the right-hand side, the voice, as it seems, strikes upon my ear.

SOSIA
aside . I'm afraid that I shall be getting a thrashing here this day, in place of my voice, that's striking him. *Moves.*

MERCURY
Here he is — he's coming towards me, most opportunely.

SOSIA
aside . I'm terrified — I'm numbed all over. Upon my faith, I don't know where in the world I now am, if any one should ask me; and to my misfortune, I cannot move myself for fright. It's all up with me; the orders of his master and Sosia are lost together. But I'm determined boldly to address this fellow to his face, so that I may be able to appear valiant to him; that he may keep his hands off me *Advances towards the door.*

MERCURY
accosting him . Where are you going, you that are carrying Vulcan enclosed in your horn?

SOSIA
Why do you make that enquiry, you who are boning men's heads with your fists?

MERCURY
Are you slave or free man?

SOSIA
Just as it suits my inclination.

MERCURY
Do you really say so?

SOSIA
I really do say so.

MERCURY
Whip-scoundrel!

SOSIA
Now you are telling a lie.

MERCURY
But I'll soon make you own that I'm telling the truth.

SOSIA
What necessity is there for it?

MERCURY
Can I know whence you have set out, whose you are, or why you are come?

SOSIA
pointing . This way I'm going, and I'm the servant of my master. Are you any the wiser now?

MERCURY
I'll this day make you be holding that foul tongue of yours.

SOSIA
You can't; it is kept pure and becomingly.

MERCURY

Do you persist in chattering? What business now have you at this house? *Points to the house.*

SOSIA
Aye, and what business have you?

MERCURY
King Creon always sets a watch every night.

SOSIA
He does right; because we were abroad, he has been protecting our house. But however, do go in now, and say that some of the family servants have arrived.

MERCURY
How far you are one of the family servants I don't know. But unless you are off from here this instant, family servant as you are, I'll make you to be received in no familiar style.

SOSIA
Here, I say, I live, and of these people I am the servant.

MERCURY
But do you understand how it is? Unless you are off, I'll make you to be exalted this day.

SOSIA
In what way, pray?

MERCURY
You shall be carried off, you shan't walk away, if I take up a stick.

SOSIA
But I declare that I am one of the domestics of this family.

MERCURY
Consider, will you, how soon you want a drubbing, unless you are off from here this instant.

SOSIA
Do you want, as I arrive from foreign parts, to drive me from my home?

MERCURY
Is this your home?

SOSIA
It is so, I say.

MERCURY
Who is your master, then?

SOSIA
Amphitryon, who is now the general of the Theban forces, to whom Alcmena is married.

MERCURY
How say you? What's your name?

SOSIA
The Thebans call me Sosia, the son of my father Davus.

MERCURY
Assuredly, at your peril have you come here this day, with your trumped-up lies, your patched-up knaveries, you essence of effrontery.

SOSIA
Why no, it's rather with garments patched-up that I'm arrived here, not with knaveries.

MERCURY
Why, you are lying again; you come with your feet, surely, and not with your garments.

SOSIA
Yes, certainly.

MERCURY
Then certainly take that for your lie. *He strikes him.*

SOSIA
By my troth, I certainly don't wish for it of course.

MERCURY
But by my faith, you certainly shall have it of course, whether you wish or not: for, in fact, this is certainly my determination, and it is not at your own option. *He strikes him.*

SOSIA
Mercy, I entreat of you.

MERCURY
Do you dare to say that you are Sosia, when I myself am he? *Strikes him.*

SOSIA
crying at the top of his voice . I'm being murdered.

MERCURY
Why, you are crying out for a trifle as yet, compared with what it will be. Whose are you now?

SOSIA
Your own; for with your fists you have laid hands on me. Help, help, citizens of Thebes. *MERCURY striking him.*

MERCURY
What, still bawling, you scoundrel? Speak — what have you come for?

SOSIA
For there to be somebody for you to belabour with your fists.

MERCURY
Whose are you?

SOSIA
Amphitryon's Sosia, I tell you.

MERCURY
For this reason then you shall be beaten the more, because you prate thus idly; I am Sosia, not you.

SOSIA
aside . I wish the Gods would have it so, that you were he in preference, and that I were thrashing you.

MERCURY
What, muttering still? *Strikes him* .

SOSIA
I'll hold my tongue then.

MERCURY
Who is your master?

SOSIA
Whoever you like.

MERCURY
How then? What's your name now?

SOSIA
Nothing but what you shall command.

MERCURY
You said that you were Amphitryon's Sosia.

SOSIA
I made a mistake; but this I meant to say, that I was Amphitryon's associate.

MERCURY
Why, I was sure that we had no servant called Sosia except myself.

Your senses are forsaking you.

SOSIA
I wish that those fists of yours had done so.

MERCURY
I am that Sosia, whom you were just now telling me that you are.

SOSIA
I pray that I may be allowed to discourse with you in quietness, so as not to be beaten.

MERCURY
Well then, let there be a truce for a short time, if you want to say anything.

SOSIA
I'll not speak unless peace is concluded, since you are the stronger with your fists.

MERCURY
If you wish to say anything, speak; I'll not hurt you.

SOSIA
Am I to trust in your word?

MERCURY
Yes, in my word.

SOSIA
What, if you deceive me?

MERCURY
Why, then may Mercury be angry with Sosia.

SOSIA
Then give attention: now I'm at liberty to say in freedom anything I please. I am Sosia, servant of Amphitryon.

MERCURY
What, again? *Offering to strike him.*

SOSIA
I have concluded the peace, ratified the treaty — I speak the truth.

MERCURY
Take that, then. *Hie strikes him.*

SOSIA
As you please, and what you please, pray do, since you are the stronger with your fists. But whatever you shall do, still, upon my faith, I really shall not be silent about that.

MERCURY
So long as you live, you shall never make me to be any other than Sosia at this moment.

SOSIA
I' faith, you certainly shall never make me to be any other person than my own self; and besides myself we have no other servant of the name of Sosia — myself, who went hence on the expedition together with Amphitryon.

MERCURY
This fellow is not in his senses.

SOSIA
The malady that you impute to me, you have that same yourself. How, the plague, am I not Sosia, the servant of Amphitryon? Has not our ship, which brought me, arrived here this night from the Persian port? Has not my master sent me here? Am I not now standing before our house? Have I not a lantern in my hand? Am I not talking? Am I not wide awake? Has not this fellow been thumping me with his fists? By my troth, he has been doing so; for even now, to my pain, my cheeks are tingling. Why, then, do I hesitate? Or why don't I go in-doors into our house? *He makes towards the door.*

MERCURY
stepping between . How — your house?

SOSIA
Indeed it really is so.

MERCURY
Why, all that you have been saying just now, you have trumped up; I surely am Amphitryon's Sosia. For in the night this ship of ours weighed anchor from the Persian port, and where king Pterelas reigned, the city we took by storm, and the legions of the Teleboans in fighting we took by arms, and Amphitryon himself cut off the head of king Pterelas in battle.

SOSIA
aside . I do not trust my own self, when I hear him affirm these things; certainly, he really does relate exactly the things that were done there. *Aloud.* But how say you? What spoil from the Teleboans was made a present to Amphitryon?

MERCURY
A golden goblet, from which king Pterelas used to drink.

SOSIA
aside . He has said the truth. Where now is this goblet?

MERCURY
'Tis in a casket, sealed with the seal of Amphitryon.

SOSIA
Tell me, what is the seal?

MERCURY
The Sun rising with his chariot. Why are you on the catch for me, you villain?

SOSIA
aside . He has overpowered me with his proofs. I must look out for

another name. I don't know from whence he witnessed these things. I'll now entrap him finely; for what I did alone by myself, and when not another person was present in the tent, that, he certainly will never be able this day to tell me. *Aloud.* If you are Sosia, when the armies were fighting most vigorously, what were you doing in the tent? If you tell me that, I'm vanquished.

MERCURY
There was a cask of wine; from it I filled an earthen pot.

SOSIA
aside . He has got upon the track.

MERC.
That I drew full of pure wine, just as it was born from the mother grape.

SOSIA
aside . It's a wonder if this fellow wasn't lying hid inside of that earthen pot. It is the fact, that there I did drink an earthen pot full of wine.

MERCURY
Well — do I now convince you by my proofs that you are not Sosia?

SOSIA
Do you deny that I am?

MERCURY
Why should I not deny it, who am he myself?

SOSIA
By Jupiter I swear that I am he, and that I do not say false.

MERCURY
But by Mercury, I swear that Jupiter does not believe you; for I am sure that he will rather credit me without an oath than you with an oath.

SOSIA
Who am I, at all events, if I am not Sosia? I ask you that.

MERCURY
When I choose not to be Sosia, then do you be Sosia; now, since I am he, you'll get a thrashing, if you are not off hence, you fellow without a name.

SOSIA
aside . Upon my faith, for sure, when I examine him and recollect my own figure, just in such manner as I am (I've often looked in a glass): , he is exactly like me. He has the broad-brimmed hat and clothing just the same; he is as like me as I am myself. His leg, foot, stature, shorn head, eyes, nose, even his lips, cheeks, chin, beard, neck — the whole of him. What need is there of words? If his back is marked with scars, than this likeness there is nothing more like. But when I reflect, really, I surely am the same person that I always was. My master I know, I know our I house; I am quite in my wits and senses. I'm not going to I obey this fellow in what he says; I'll knock at the door. *Goes towards the door.*

MERCURY
Whither are you betaking yourself?

SOSIA
Home.

MERCURY
If now you were to ascend the chariot of Jove and fly away from here, then you could hardly be able to escape destruction.

SOSIA
Mayn't I be allowed to deliver the message to my mistress that my master ordered me to give?

MERCURY
If you want to deliver any message to your own mistress; this mistress of mine I shall not allow you to approach. But if you

provoke me, you'll be just now taking hence your loins broken.

SOSIA
In preference, I'll be off. *Aside.* Immortal Gods, I do beseech your mercy. Where did I lose myself? Where have I been transformed? Where have I parted with my figure? Or have I left myself behind there, if perchance I have forgotten it? For really this person has possession of all my figure, such as it formerly was. While living, that is done for me, which no one will ever do for me when dead. I'll go to the harbour, and I'll tell my master these things as they have happened — unless even he as well shall not know me, which may Jupiter grant, so that this day, bald, with shaven crown, I may assume the cap of freedom. *(Exit.)*

MERCURY, alone

MERCURY
Well and prosperously has this affair gone on for me; from the door have I removed the greatest obstacle, so that it may be allowed my father to embrace her in security. When now he shall have reached his master, Amphitryon there, he will say that the servant Sosia has repulsed himself from the door here; and then the other will suppose that he is telling him a lie, and will not believe that he has come here as he had ordered him. Both of them and the whole household of Amphitryon I will fill with mistakes and distraction, even until my father shall have had full enjoyment of her whom he loves; then at last all shall know what has been done. In the end Jupiter shall restore Alcmena to the former affection of her husband. For Amphitryon will just now be beginning a quarrel with his wife, and will be accusing her of incontinence; then will my father change for her this strife into tranquillity. Now, inasmuch as yet I've said but little about Alcmena, this day will she bring forth two sons, twins; the one will be born in the tenth month after he was begotten, the other in the seventh month; of these the one is the son of Amphitryon, the other of Jupiter. But of the younger son the father is the superior, of the elder the inferior. *To the AUDIENCE.* Now do you comprehend this how it is? But for the sake of the honor of this

Alcmena, my father will take care that it shall happen at one birth, so that in one travail she may complete her double pangs, and not be laid under suspicion of unchastity, and that the clandestine connexion may remain concealed. Although, as I have said just now, Amphitryon shall still know all the matter in the end. What then? No one surely will impute it to Alcmena as a disgrace; for it does not seem that a God is acting justly to permit his own offences and his own faultiness to fall upon a mortal. I'll cut short my talk: the door makes a noise. See, the counterfeit Amphitryon is coming out of doors, and together with him Alcmena, the wife that he has taken the loan of.

Enter JUPITER and ALCMENA, from the house.

JUPITER
Kindly fare you well, Alcmena; take care, as you are doing, of our common interest, and pray be sparing of yourself; you see that now your months are completed. It's necessary for me to go away from here; but the offspring that shall be born do you bring up.

ALCMENA
What business is this, my husband, since you thus suddenly leave your home?

JUPITER
By my troth, 'tis not that I am wearied of you or of my home; but when the chief commander is not with the army, that is sooner done which ought not to be done than that which needs to be done.

MERCURY
aside . This is a very clever counterfeit, who really is my own father. *To the AUDIENCE.* Do you observe him, how blandly he smoothes the lady over.

ALCMENA
I' faith, I find by experience how much you value your wife.

JUPITER

If there is no one among women whom I love so much, are you satisfied?

MERCURY
aside . Verily, upon my faith, if Juno only knew that you were giving your attention to such matters, I'd warrant that you'd rather be Amphitryon than Jupiter.

ALCMENA
I would rather that I should find it so by experience, than that it should be told me. You leave me before the spot in the bed where.you have been lying has well grown warm. Yesterday, in the middle of the night, you came, and now you are going away. Is this your pleasure?

MERCURY
aside . I'll approach, and address her, and play second fiddle to my father. *He approaches ALCMENA.* Never, upon my faith, do I believe that any mortal did so. distractedly love his wife as he distractedly dotes upon you.

JUPITER
Scoundrel! — don't I know you of old? Won't you be off out of my sight? What business have you in this matter, whip-knave? or why your muttering? Whom this very instant, with this walking-stick, I'll —— *Shakes his stick over his head.*

ALCMENA
Oh don't.

JUPITER
Only make a whisper.

MERCURY
aside . My first attempt at playing second fiddle had almost come to an unfortunate conclusion.

JUPITER

But as to what you say, my wife, you ought not to be angry with me. I came away privately from the army: these moments I stole for you, that you the first might know from me the first, how I had managed the common interests. All this have I related to you. If I had not loved you very much, I should not have done so.

MERCURY
aside . Isn't he doing just as I said? In her alarm, he is smoothing her down.

JUPITER
That the army then mayn't find it out, I must return there privately, lest they should say that I have preferred my wife before the common interests.

ALCMENA
By your departure you set your wife in tears.

JUPITER
Be quiet; don't spoil your eyes: I'll return very shortly.

ALCMENA
That "very shortly" is a long time.

JUPITER
I do not with pleasure leave you here, or go away from you.

ALCMENA
I am sensible of it; for, the night that you have come to me, on the same you go away. *(She embraces him.)*

JUPITER
Why do you hold me? It is time to go: I wish to depart from the city before it dawns. Now, Alcmena, this goblet which has been given me there on account of my valour, from which king Pterelas used to drink, he whom I slew with my own hand, the same I present to you. *Presents to her the goblet.*

ALCMENA
taking the goblet . You do as you are wont in other things. By heavens, it is a noble gift; like him who gave the gift.

MERCURY
Aye, a noble gift; just like her to whom it has been given as a gift.

JUPITER
What, still going on? Can't I, you scoundrel, make an end of you?

ALCMENA
Amphitryon, there's a dear, don't be angry with Sosia on my account.

JUPITER
Just as you wish I'll do.

MERCURY
aside . From his intriguing, how very savage he does become!

JUPITER
Do you wish for anything else?

ALCMENA
That when I am absent you will love me — me, who am yours, though absent.

MERCURY
Let's go, Amphitryon; it's already dawning.

JUPITER
Go you first, Sosia. *Exit MERCURY.* I'll follow this instant. *To ALCMENA.* Is there anything you wish?

ALCMENA
Yes; that you'll come back speedily.

JUPITER

I will; and sooner than you expect will I be here therefore be of good heart. *ALCMENA goes into the house.* Now Night, thou who hast tarried for me, I permit these to give place to Day, that thou mayst shine upon mortals with a bright and brilliant light. And Night, as much as on this last thou wast too long, so much the shorter will I make the Day to be, that a Day of equal disparity may succeed the Night. I'll go and follow Mercury. *(Exit.)*

ACT II.

Enter AMPHITRYON and SOSIA, at the end of the stage.

AMPH.
Come, do you follow after me.

SOSIA
I'm following; I'm following close after you.

AMPH.
I think that you are the veriest rogue ——

SOSIA
But for what reason?

AMPH.
Because that which neither is, nor ever was, nor will be, you declare to me.

SOSIA
Look at that; you are now acting according to your usual fashion, to be putting no trust in your servants.

AMPH.
Why is it so? For what reason? Surely now, by the powers, I'll cut out that villanous tongue of yours, you villain.

SOSIA
I am yours; do each thing just as it is agreable and as it pleases you. Still you never can, by any method, hinder me from saying these things just as they took place here.

AMPH.
You consummate villain, do you dare tell me this, that you are now at home, who are here present?

SOSIA

I speak the truth.

AMPH.
A mishap shall the Gods send upon you, and I this day will send it as well.

SOSIA
That's in your power, for I am your property.

AMPH.
Do you dare, you whip-scoundrel, to play your tricks with me, your master? Do you dare affirm that which no person ever yet before this has seen, and which cannot possibly happen, for the same man to be in two places together at the same time?

SOSIA
Undoubtedly, such as I say is the fact.

AMPH.
May Jupiter confound you!

SOSIA
What evil, master, have I been deemed deserving of in your service?

AMPH.
Do you ask me, you rogue, who are even making sport of me?

SOSIA
With reason might you curse me, if it had not so happened. But I tell no lie, and I speak as the thing really did happen.

AMPH.
This fellow's drunk, as I imagine.

SOSIA
What, I?

AMPH.

Yes — you there.

SOSIA
I wish I were so.

AMPH.
You are wishing for that which is fact; where have you been drinking?

SOSIA
Nowhere, indeed.

AMPH.
What is this, that is the matter with the fellow?

SOSIA
Really I have told you ten times over. I am both at home now, I say (do you mark me?), and I, Sosia, am with you likewise. Don't I appear, master, to have told you quite distinctly, and quite circumstantially, that this is so.

AMPH.
Avaunt, get away with you from me.

SOSIA
What's the matter?

AMPH.
A pestilence possesses you.

SOSIA
But why do you say so to me? I really am quite well and in perfect health, Amphitryon.

AMPH.
But I'll make you this very day, just as you have deserved, not to be quite so well, and to be miserable instead of your perfect health, if I return home. Follow me, you who in this fashion are making sport of

your master with your crack-brained talk; you, who, since you have neglected to perform what your master ordered, are now come even of your own accord to laugh at your master. Things which neither can happen, and which no one ever yet heard of in talk, you are telling of, you villain; on your back I'll take care and make those lies to tell this very day.

SOSIA
Amphitryon, this is the most wretched of wretchedness to a good servant, who is telling the truth to his master, if that same truth is overpowered by violence.

AMPH.
Discuss it with me by proofs. Why, how the plague can such a thing happen, for you now to be both here and at home? That I want to be told.

SOSIA
I really am both here and there; this any person has a right to wonder at; nor, Amphitryon, does this seem more. strange to you than to myself.

AMPH.
In what way?

SOSIA
In no degree, I say, is this more strange to you than to myself; nor, so may the Deities love me, did I at first credit Sosia — me myself, until that Sosia, I myself, made me to believe me myself. In order did he relate everything, as each thing came to pass, when we sojourned with the enemy; and then besides, he has carried off my figure together with my name. Not even is milk more like to milk than is that I myself like to me myself. For when some time since, before daybreak, you sent me from the harbour home before you ——

AMPH.
What then?

SOSIA
I had been standing a long time at the door before I had got there.

AMPH.
Plague on it, what nonsense! Are you quite in your senses?

SOSIA
I'm just as you see me.

AMPH.
Some mischief, I know not what, has befallen this fellow from an evil hand since he left me.

SOSIA
I confess it; for I have been most shockingly bruised with his fists.

AMPH.
Who has been beating you?

SOSIA
I myself, who am now at home, beat me myself.

AMPH.
Take you care to say nothing but what I shall ask you. Now, do you answer me. First of all, who this Sosia is, of that I want to be informed.

SOSIA
He is your servant.

AMPH.
Really I have even more than I desire by your own one self. Never, too, since I was born, had I a servant Sosia besides yourself.

SOSIA
But now, Amphitryon, I say this; I'll make you, I say, on your arrival, meet with another Sosia at home, a servant of yours, besides myself, a son of Davus, the same father with myself, of figure and

age as well just like myself. What need is there of words? This Sosia of yours is become twofold.

AMPH.
You talk of things extremely wonderful. But did you see my wife?

SOSIA
Nay, but it was never allowed me to go in-doors into the house.

AMPH.
Who hindered you?

SOSIA
This Sosia, whom I was just now telling of, he who thumped me.

AMPH.
Who is this Sosia?

SOSIA
Myself, I say; how often must it be told you?

AMPH.
But how say you? Have you been sleeping the while?

SOSIA
Not the slightest in the world.

AMPH.
Then, perhaps, you might perchance have seen some Sosia in your dreams.

SOSIA
I am not in the habit of performing the orders of my master in a sleepy fashion. Awake I saw him, awake I now see you, awake I am talking, awake did he, a little while since, thump me about with his fists.

AMPH.

What person did so?

SOSIA
Sosia, that I myself, — he, I say. Prithee, don't you understand?

AMPH.
How, the plague, can any one possibly understand? You are jabbering such nonsense.

SOSIA
But you'll know him shortly.

AMPH.
Whom?

SOSIA
You'll know this servant Sosia.

AMPH.
Follow me this way, then; for it is necessary for me first to enquire into this. But take care that all the things that I ordered are now brought from the ship.

SOSIA
I am both mindful and diligent that what you order shall be performed; together with the wine, I have not drunk up your commands.

AMPH.
May the Gods grant, that, in the event, what you have said may prove untrue. *They stand apart.*

Enter ALCMENA, from the house, attended by THESSALA.

ALCMENA
Is not the proportion of pleasures in life and in passing our existence short in comparison with what is disagreable? So it is allotted to each man in life; so has it pleased the Gods that Sorrow should attend on

Pleasure as her companion; but if aught of good befalls us, more of trouble and of ill forthwith attends us. For this do I now feel by experience at home and in relation to myself, to whom delight has been imparted for a very short time, while I had the opportunity of seeing my husband for but one night; and now has he suddenly gone away hence from me before the dawn. Deserted do I now seem to myself, because he is absent from here, he whom before all I love. More of grief have I felt from the departure of my husband, than of pleasure from his arrival. But this, at least, makes me happy, that he has conquered the foe, and has returned home loaded with glory. Let him be absent, if only with fame acquired he betakes himself home. I shall bear and ever endure his absence with mind resolved and steadfast; if only this reward is granted me, that my husband shall be hailed the conqueror in the warfare, sufficient for myself will I deem it. Valour is the best reward; valour assuredly surpasses all things: liberty, safety, life, property and parents, country too, and children, by it are defended and preserved. Valour comprises everything in itself: all blessings attend him in whose possession is valour.

AMPH.
apart . By my troth, I do believe that I shall come much wished for by my wife, who loves me, and whom, in return, I love: especially, our enterprise crowned with success, the enemy vanquished, whom no one had supposed to be able to be conquered: these, under my conduct and command, at the first meeting, have we vanquished; but I know for sure that I shall come to her much wished for.

SOSIA
aside . Well, and don't you think that I shall come much wished for to my mistress? *SOSIA*.

ALCMENA
to herself . Surely, this is my husband.

AMPH.
to SOSIA . Do you follow me this way.

ALCMENA
to herself . But why has he returned, when just now he said that he was in haste? Is he purposely trying me, and is he desirous to make proof of this, how much I regret his departure? By my faith, against no inclination of mine has he betaken himself home.

SOSIA
Amphitryon, it were better for us to return to the ship.

AMPH.
For what reason?

SOSIA
Because there's no person at home to give us a breakfast on our arrival.

AMPH.
How comes that now into your mind?

SOSIA
Why, because we have come too late.

AMPH.
How so?

SOSIA
Because I see Alcmena standing before the house, with her stomach-full already.

AMPH.
I left her pregnant here when I went away.

SOSIA
Alas, to my sorrow, I'm undone!

AMPH.
What's the matter with you?

SOSIA
I have come home just in good time to fetch the water in the tenth month after that, according as I understand you to compute the reckoning.

AMPH.
Be of good heart.

SOSIA
Do you know of how good heart I am? By my troth, do you never after this day entrust to me aught that is sacred, if I don't draw up all the life of that well, if I do but make a beginning.

AMPH.
Do you only follow me this way. I'll appoint another person for that business; don't you fear.

ALCMENA
advancing . I think that I shall now be doing my duty more, if I go to meet him. *(They meet.)*

AMPH.
With joy, Amphitryon greets his longed for wife — her, whom of all women in Thebes her husband deems by far the most excellent, and whom so much the Theban citizens truthfully extol as virtuous. Have you fared well all along? Do I arrive much wished for by you?

SOSIA
aside . I never saw one more so; for she greets her own husband not a bit more than a dog.

AMPH.
When I see you pregnant, and so gracefully burdened, I am delighted.

ALCMENA
Prithee, in the name of all that's good, why, for the sake of mockery, do you thus salute and address me, as though you hadn't lately seen

me — as though now, for the first time, you were betaking yourself homeward here from the enemy? For now you are addressing me just as though you were seeing me after a long time.

AMPH.
Why, really for my part, I have not seen you at all this day until now.

ALCMENA
Why do you deny it?

AMPH.
Because I have learned to speak the truth.

ALCMENA
He does not do right, who unlearns the same that he has learned. Are you making trial what feelings I possess? But why are you returning hither so soon? Has an ill omen delayed you, or does the weather keep you back, you who have not gone away to your troops, as you were lately speaking of?

AMPH.
Lately? How long since was this “lately?”

ALCMENA
You are trying me; but very lately, just now.

AMPH.
Prithee, how can that possibly be as you say?— “but very lately, just now.”

ALCMENA
Why, what do you imagine? That I, on the other hand, shall trifle with you who are playing with me, in saying that you are now come for the first time, you who but just now went away from here?

AMPH.
Surely she is talking deliriously.

SOSIA
Stop a little while, until she has slept out this one sleep.

AMPH.
Is she not dreaming with her eyes open?

ALCMENA
Upon my faith, for my part I really am awake, and awake I am relating that which has happened; for, but lately, before daybreak, I saw both him *pointing at SOSIA* and yourself.

AMPH.
In what place?

ALCMENA
Here, in the house where you yourself dwell.

AMPH.
It never was the fact.

SOSIA
Will you not hold your peace? What if the vessel brought us here from the harbour in our sleep?

AMPH.
Are you, too, going to back her as well?

SOSIA
aside to AMPHITRYON . What do you wish to be done? Don't you know, if you wish to oppose a raving Bacchanal, from a mad woman you'll render her more mad — she'll strike the oftener; if you humour her, after one blow you may overcome her?

AMPH.
But, by my troth, this thing is resolved upon, somehow to rate her who this day has been unwilling to greet me on my arrival home.

SOSIA

You'll only be irritating hornets.

AMPH.
You hold your tongue. Alcmena, I wish to ask you one thing.

ALCMENA
Ask me anything you please.

AMPH.
Is it frenzy that has come upon you, or does pride overcome you?

ALCMENA
How comes it into your mind, my husband, to ask me that?

AMPH.
Because formerly you used to greet me on my arrival, and to address me in such manner as those women who are virtuous are wont their husbands. On my arrival home I've found that you have got rid of that custom.

ALCMENA
By my faith, indeed, I assuredly did both greet you yesterday, upon your arrival, at that very instant, and at the same time I enquired if you had continued in health all along, my husband, and I took your hand and gave you a kiss.

SOSIA
What, did you welcome him yesterday?

ALCMENA
And you too, as well, Sosia.

SOSIA
Amphitryon, I did hope that she was about to bring you forth a son; but she isn't gone with child.

AMPH.
What then?

SOSIA
With madness.

ALCMENA
Really I am in my senses, and I pray the Gods that in safety I may bring forth a son; but *to SOSIA* hap-ill shall you be having, if he does his duty: for those ominous words, omen-maker, you shall catch what befits you.

SOSIA
Why really an apple ought to be given to the lady thus pregnant, that there may be something for her to gnaw if she should begin to faint.

AMPH.
Did you see me here yesterday?

ALCMENA
I did, I say, if you wish it to be ten times repeated.

AMPH.
In your sleep, perhaps?

ALCMENA
No — I, awake, saw you awake.

AMPH.
Woe to me!

SOSIA
What's the matter with you?

AMPH.
My wife is mad.

SOSIA
She's attacked with black bile; nothing so soon turns people mad.

AMPH.

When, madam, did you first find yourself affected?

ALCMENA
Why really, upon my faith, I'm well, and in my senses.

AMPH.
Why, then, do you say that you saw me yesterday, whereas we were brought into harbour but last night? There did I dine, and there did I rest the livelong night on board ship, nor have I set my foot even here into the house, since, with the army, I set out hence against the Teleboan foe, and since we conquered them.

ALCMENA
On the contrary, you dined with me, and you slept with me.

AMPH.
How so?

ALCMENA
I'm telling the truth.

AMPH.
On my honor, not in this matter, really; about other

MATTERS
I don't know.

ALCMENA
At the very break of dawn you went away to your troops.

AMPH.
By what means could I?

SOSIA
She says right, according as she remembers; she's telling you her dream. But, madam, after you arose, you ought to have sacrificed to Jove, the disposer of prodigies, either with a salt cake or with frankincense.

ALCMENA
A mischief on your head!

SOSIA
That's your own business, if you take due care.

ALCMENA
Now again this fellow is talking rudely to me, and that without punishment.

AMPH.
to SOSIA . You hold your tongue. *To ALCMENA.* Do you tell me now — did I go away hence from you at daybreak?

ALCMENA
Who then but your own self recounted to me how the battle went there?

AMPH.
And do you know that as well?

ALCMENA
Why, I heard it from your own self, how you had taken a very large city, and how you yourself had slain king Pterelas.

AMPH.
What, did I tell you this?

ALCMENA
You yourself, this Sosia standing by as well.

AMPH.
to SOSIA . Have you heard me telling about this to-day?

SOSIA
Where should I have heard you?

AMPH.

Ask her.

SOSIA
In my presence, indeed, it never took place, that I know of.

ALCMENA
It would be a wonder if he didn't contradict you.

AMPH.
Sosia, come here and look at me.

SOSIA
looks at him . I am looking at you.

AMPH.
I wish you to tell the truth, and I don't want you to humour me. Have you heard me this day sav to her these things which she affirms?

SOSIA
Prithee now, by my troth, are you, too, mad as well, when you ask me this, me, who, for my part, my own self now behold her in company with you for the first time?

AMPH.
How now, madam? Do you hear him?

ALCMENA
I do, indeed, and telling an untruth.

AMPH.
Do you believe neither him nor my own self, your husband?

ALCMENA
No; for this reason it is, because I most readily believe myself, and I am sure that these things took place just as I relate them.

AMPH.
Do you say that I came yesterday?

ALCMENA
Do you deny that you went away from here to-day?

AMPH.
I really do deny it, and I declare that I have now come home to you for the first time.

ALCMENA
Prithee, will you deny this too, that you to-day made me a present of a golden goblet, with which you said that you had been presented?

AMPH.
By heavens, I neither gave it nor told you so: but I had so intended, and do so now, to present you with that goblet. But who told you this?

ALCMENA
Why, I heard it from yourself, and I received the goblet from your own hand. *She moves as if going.*

AMPH.
Stay, stay, I entreat you. Sosia, I marvel much how she knows that I was presented there with this golden goblet, unless you have lately met her and told her all this.

SOSIA
Upon my faith, I have never told her, nor have I ever beheld her except with yourself.

AMPH.
What is the matter with this person?

ALCMENA
Should you like the goblet to be produced?

AMPH.
I should like it; to be produced

ALCMENA
Be it so. Do you go, Thessala, and bring from indoors the goblet, with which my husband presented me today. *THESSALA goes into the house, and AMPHITRYON and SOSIA walk on one side.*

AMPH.
Sosia, do you step this way. Really, I do wonder extremely at this beyond the other wondrous matters, if she has got this goblet.

SOSIA
And do you believe it, when it's carried in this casket, sealed with your own seal. *He shows the casket.*

AMPH.
Is the seal whole?

SOSIA
Examine it.

AMPH.
examining it . All right, it's just as I sealed it up.

SOSIA
Prithee, why don't you order her to be purified as a frantic person?

AMPH.
By my troth, somehow there's need for it, for, i' faith, she's certainly filled with sprites. *ALCMENA.*

ALCMENA
What need is there of talking? See, here's the goblet; here it is.

AMPH.
Give it me.

ALCMENA
Come, now then, look here, if you please, you who deny what is fact, and whom I shall now clearly convict in this case. Isn't this the

goblet with which you were presented there?

AMPH.
Supreme Jupiter! what do I behold? Surely this is that goblet. Sosia, I'm utterly confounded.

SOSIA
Upon my faith, either this woman is a most consummate juggler, or the goblet must be in here *pointing to the casket* . AMPH. Come, then, open this casket.

SOSIA
Why should I open it? It is securely sealed. The thing is cleverly contrived; you have brought forth another Amphitryon, I have brought forth another Sosia; now if the goblet has brought forth a goblet, we have all produced our doubles.

AMPH.
I'm determined to open and examine it.

SOSIA
Look, please, how the seal is, that you may not hereafter throw the blame on me.

AMPH.
Now do open it. For she certainly is desirous to drive us mad with her talking.

ALCMENA
Whence then came this which was made a present to me, but from yourself?

AMPH.
It's necessary for me to enquire into this.

SOSIA
opening the casket . Jupiter, O Jupiter!

AMPH.
What is the matter with you?

SOSIA
There's no goblet here in the casket.

AMPH.
What do I hear.

SOSIA
That which is the truth.

AMPH.
But at your peril now, if it does not make its appearance.

ALCMENA
showing it . Why, it does make its appearance.

AMPH.
Who then gave it you?

ALCMENA
The person that's asking me the question.

SOSIA
to AMPHITRYON . You are on the catch for me, inasmuch as you yourself have secretly run before me hither from the ship by another road, and have taken the goblet away from here and given it to her, and afterwards you have secretly sealed it up again.

AMPH.
Ah me! and are you too helping her frenzy as well? *To ALCMENA* Do you say that we arrived here yesterday?

ALCMENA
I do say so, and on your arrival you instantly greeted me, and I you, and I gave you a kiss.

SOSIA
aside . That beginning now about the kiss doesn't please me.

AMPH.
Go on telling it.

ALCMENA
Then you bathed.

AMPH.
What, after I bathed?

ALCMENA
You took your place at table.

SOSIA
Bravo, capital! Now make further enquiry.

AMPH.
to SOSIA . Don't you interrupt. *To ALCMENA* . Go on telling me.

ALCMENA
The dinner was served; you dined with me; I reclined together with you at the repast.

AMPH.
What, on the same couch?

ALCMENA
On the same.

SOSIA
Oh dear, I don't like this banquet.

AMPH.
Now do let her give her proofs. *To ALCMENA*. What, after we had dined?

ALCMENA

You said that you were inclined to go to sleep; the table was removed; thence we went to bed.

AMPH.
Where did you lie?

ALCMENA
In the chamber, in the same bed together with your. self.

AMPH.
You have proved my undoing.

SOSIA
What's the matter with you?

AMPH.
This very moment has she sent me to my grave.

ALCMENA
How so, pray?

AMPH.
Don't address me.

SOSIA
What's the matter with you?

AMPH.
To my sorrow I'm undone, since, in my absence from here, dishonor has befallen her chastity.

ALCMENA
In heaven's name, my lord, why, I beseech you, do I hear this from you?

AMPH.
I, your lord? False one, don't call me by a false name.

SOSIA

aside . ’Tis an odd matter this, if indeed he has been made into my lady from my lord.

ALCMENA
What have I done, by reason of which these expressions are uttered to me?

AMPH.
You yourself proclaim your own doings; do you enquire of me in what you have offended?

ALCMENA
In what have I offended you, if I have been with you to whom I am married?

AMPH.
You, been with me? What is there of greater effrontery than this impudent woman? At least, if you were wanting in modesty of your own, you might have borrowed it.

ALCMENA
That criminality which you lay to my charge befits not my family. If you try to catch me in incontinence, you cannot convict me.

AMPH.
Immortal Gods! do you at least know me, Sosia?

SOSIA
Pretty well.

AMPH.
Did I not dine yesterday on board ship in the Persian Port?

ALCMENA
I have witnesses as well, who can confirm that which I say.

SOSIA
I don’t know what to say to this matter, unless, perchance, there is

another Amphitryon, who, perhaps, though you yourself are absent, takes care of your business, and who, in your absence, performs your duties here. For about that counterfeit Sosia it is very surprising. Certainly, about this Amphitryon, now, it is another matter still more surprising.

AMPH.
Some magician, I know not who, is bewildering this woman.

ALCMENA
By the realms of the supreme Sovereign I swear, and by Juno, the matron Goddess, whom for me to fear and venerate it is most especially fitting, that no mortal being except yourself alone has ever touched my person in contact with his so as to render me unchaste.

AMPH.
I could wish that that was true.

ALCMENA
I speak the truth, but in vain, since you will not believe me.

AMPH.
You are a woman; you swear at random.

ALCMENA
She who has not done wrong, her it befits to be bold and to speak confidently and positively in her own behalf.

AMPH.
That's very boldly said.

ALCMENA
Just as befits a virtuous woman.

AMPH.
Say you so? By your own words you prove it.

ALCMENA

That which is called a dowry, I do not deem the same my dowry; but chastity, and modesty, and subdued desires, fear of the Gods, and love of my parents, and concord with my kindred; to be obedient to yourself and bounteous to the good, ready to aid the upright.

SOSIA
Surely, by my troth, if she tells the truth in this, she's perfect to the very ideal.

AMPH.
Really I am so bewildered, that I don't know myself who I am.

SOSIA
Surely you are Amphitryon; take you care, please, that you don't peradventure lose yourself; people are changing in such a fashion since we came from abroad.

AMPH.
Madam, I'm resolved not to omit having this matter enquired into.

ALCMENA
I' faith, you'll do so quite to my satisfaction.

AMPH.
How say you? Answer me; what if I bring your own kinsman, Naucrates, hither from the ship, who, together with me, has been brought on board the same ship; and if he denies that that has happened which you say has happened, what is proper to be done to you? Do you allege any reason. why I should not at your cost dissolve this our marriage?

ALCMENA
If I have done wrong, there is no reason.

AMPH.
Agreed. Do you, Sosia, take these people in-doors. I'll bring Naucrates hither with me from the ship. *(Exit.)*

SOSIA
going close to ALCMENA . Now then, there's no one here except ourselves; tell me the truth seriously, is there any Sosia in-doors who is like myself?

ALCMENA
Won't you hence away from me, fit servant for your master?

SOSIA
If you command me, I'm off, *Goes into the house.*

ALCMENA
to herself . By heavens, it is a very wondrous proceeding, how it has pleased this husband of mine thus to accuse me falsely of a crime so foul. Whatever it is, I shall now learn it from my kinsman Naucrates. *Goes into the house.*

ACT III.

Enter JUPITER.

JUPITER
I am that Amphitryon, whose servant Sosia is the same that becomes Mercury when there is occasion — I, who dwell in the highest story, who sometimes, when it pleases me, become Jupiter. But, hither soon as ever I turn my steps, I become Amphitryon that moment, and I change my garb. Now hither am I come for the sake of a compliment to you, that I may not leave this Comedy incomplete. I've come as well to bring assistance to Alcmena, whom, guiltless woman, her husband Amphitryon is accusing of dishonor, For what I myself have brought about, if that undeservedly should fall as an injury upon her in her innocence, it would be my blame. Now, as I have already begun, I'll again pretend that I am Amphitryon, and this day will I introduce extreme confusion into this household. Then afterwards, at last, I'll cause the matter to be disclosed, and to Alcmena timely aid will I bring, and will cause that at one birth she shall bring forth, without pangs, both the child with which she is pregnant by her husband and that with which she is pregnant by myself. I have ordered Mercury forthwith to follow me, if I should wish to give him any commands. Now will I accost her. *He stands apart.*

Enter ALCMENA, from the house.

ALCMENA
I cannot remain in the house. That I should be thus accused by my husband of dishonor, incontinence, and disgrace! he cries aloud that things which have been done, have really not been done; and of things which have not been done, and of which I have not been guilty, he accuses me, and supposes that I shall treat it with indifference. By heavens, I will not do so, nor will I allow myself to be falsely charged with dishonor; but rather I'll either leave him, or make him give satisfaction and swear as well that he wishes unsaid the things which he has alleged against me in my innocence.

JUPITER
apart . This must be done by me, which she requires to be done, if I wish for her to receive me into her company as loving her: since that which I have done, that same conduct has proved to the detriment of Amphitryon, and since my love has already created trouble for him who is really guiltless, why now his wrath and his resentment towards her shall fall on me that am not accused.

ALCMENA
And lo! I see him, who just now was accusing wretched me of incontinence and dishonor.

JUPITER
advancing . Wife, I would discourse with you. *She turns from him.* Why turn yourself away?

ALCMENA
Such is my disposition; I always hate to look upon my enemies.

JUPITER
Heyday! enemies indeed!

ALCMENA
It is so, I speak the truth; unless you are going to allege that this is falsely said as well.

JUPITER
offering to embrace her . You are too angry.

ALCMENA
repulsing him . Can’t you keep your hands off? For surely if you were wise, or quite in your senses, with her, whom you deem and pronounce to be unchaste, you would neither hold discourse, in mirth or in seriousness, unless, indeed, you are more foolish than the most foolish.

JUPITER
If I did say so, not a bit the more are you so, nor do I think you so,

and therefore have I returned hither that I might excuse myself to you. For never has anything proved more grievous to my feelings than when I heard that you were angry with me. “Why did you charge me?” you will say. I’ll tell you; by my troth, not that I deemed you to be unchaste; but I was trying your feelings, what you would do, and in what manner you would bring yourself to bear it. Really, I said these things to you just now in jest, for the sake of the joke. Do but ask Sosia this.

ALCMENA
But why don’t you bring here my kinsman, Naucrates, whom you said just now that you would bring as a witness that you had not come here?

JUPITER
If anything was said in joke, it isn’t right for you to take it in earnest.

ALCMENA
I know how much this has pained me at heart.

JUPITER
Prithee, Alcmena *taking her hand* , by your right hand I do entreat you, grant me pardon; forgive me, don’t be angry.

ALCMENA
By my virtue have I rendered these accusations vain. Since then I eschew conduct that’s unchaste, I would wish to avoid imputations of unchastity. Fare you well, keep your own property to yourself, return me mine. Do you order any maids to be my attendants?

JUPITER
Are you in your senses?

ALCMENA
If you don’t order them, let me go alone; chastity shall I take as my attendant. *Going.*

JUPITER

Stay — at your desire, I'll give my oath that I believe my wife to be chaste. If in that I deceive you, then, thee, supreme Jupiter, do I entreat that thou wilt ever be angered against Amphitryon.

ALCMENA
Oh! rather may he prove propitious.

JUPITER
I trust that it will be so; for before you have I taken a truthful oath. Now then, you are not angry?

ALCMENA
I am not.

JUPITER
You act properly. For in the life of mortals many things of this nature come to pass; and now they take their pleasures, again they meet with hardships. Quarrels intervene, again do they become reconciled. But it perchance any quarrels of this nature happen between them, when again they have become reconciled, twofold more loving are they between themselves than they were before.

ALCMENA
At the first you ought to have been careful not to say so; but if you excuse yourself to me for the same, it must be put up with.

JUPITER
But bid the sacred vessels to be got ready for me, that I may fulfil all those vows which I made when with the army, in case I should return safe home.

ALCMENA
I'll take care of that.

JUPITER
To a SERVANT . Call out Sosia hither. Let him fetch Blepharo, the pilot that was on board my ship, to breakfast with us. *Aside.* He shall be fooled this day so as to go without his breakfast, while I shall drag

Amphitryon hence by the throat.

ALCMENA
aside . It's surprising what he can be arranging alone in secrecy with himself. But the door opens; Sosia's coming out.

Enter SOSIA, from the house

SOSIA
Amphitryon, I'm here; if any way you have need of me, command me; your commands I will obey.

JUPITER
Very opportunely are you come.

SOSIA
Has peace been made then between you two? But since I see you in good humour, I'm delighted, and it is a pleasure to myself. And so does it seem becoming for a trusty servant to conduct himself; just as his superiors are, so should he be likewise; by their countenances he should fashion his own countenance; if his superiors are grave, let him be grave; if they rejoice, let him be merry. But come, answer me; have you two now come to a reconciliation?

JUPITER
You are laughing at me, who know full well that these things were just now said by me in joke.

SOSIA
In joke did you say it? For my part, I supposed that it was said seriously and in truthfulness.

JUPITER
Still, I've made my excuses; and peace has been made.

SOSIA
'Tis very good.

JUPITER
I shall now perform the sacrifice in-doors, and the vows which I have made.

SOSIA
So I suppose.

JUPITER
Do you invite hither, in my name, Blepharo, the pilot, from the ship, so that when the sacrifice has been performed, he may breakfast with me.

SOSIA
I shall be here again, while you'll be thinking that I'm there.

JUPITER
Return here directly. *Exit SOSIA.*

ALCMENA
Do you wish for anything else, but that I should go in-doors now, that the things that are requisite may be got ready?

JUPITER
Go then, and take care that everything is prepared as soon as possible.

ALCMENA
Why, come in-doors whenever you please; I'll take care that there shall not be any delay.

JUPITER
You say well, and just as befits an attentive wife. *ALCMENA goes into the house.* Now both of these, both servant and mistress, are, the pair of them, deceived, in taking me to be Amphitryon; egregiously do they err. Now, you immortal Sosia, take you care and be at hand for me. You hear what I say, although you are not present here. Take care that you contrive to drive away Amphitryon, on his arrival just now, by some means or other, from the house. I wish him to be

cajoled, while with this borrowed wife I now indulge myself. Please, take care that this is attended to just in such way as you know that I desire, and that you assist me while to myself I am offering sacrifice. *Goes into AMPHITRYON'S house.*

Enter MERCURY, running, at the end of the stage.

MERCURY
Stand by and make room all of you, get you out of the way. And let not any person now be so presumptuous as to stand before me in the road. For surely, why, by my troth, should I, a God, be any less allowed to threaten the public, if it does not get out of my way, than a slave in Comedies? He is bringing news that the ship is safe, or else the approach of some angry old blade; whereas I am obeying the bidding of Jove, and by his command do I now hie me. For this reason, it is more fitting to get out of the road and to make room for me. My father calls me, I am following him, to his orders so given am I obedient. As it befits a son to be dutiful to his father, just so am I to my father; in his amours I play second fiddle to him, I encourage him, assist him, advise him, rejoice with him. If anything is pleasing to my father, that pleasure is an extremely great one for myself. Is he amorously disposed? He is wise; he does right, inasmuch as he follows his inclination; a thing that all men ought to do, so long as it is done in a proper manner. Now, my father wishes Amphitryon to be cajoled; I'll take care, Spectators, that he shall be rarely cajoled, while you look on. I'll place a chaplet on my head, and pretend that I am drunk. And up there *pointing to the top of the house* will I get; from that spot, at the top of the house, I'll cleverly drive this person off when he comes hither: I'll take care that, sober, he shall be drenched. Afterwards, his own servant Sosia will presently be suffering the punishment for it; he'll be accusing him of doing, this day, the things which I myself have done what's that to me? It's proper for me to be obedient to my father; it's right to be subservient to his pleasure. But see! here is Amphitryon; he's coming. Now shall he be rarely fooled, if, indeed, *to the AUDIENCE* you are willing, by listening, to lend your attention. I'll go in-doors, and assume a garb that more becomes me; then I'll go up upon the roof, that I may drive

him off from hence. *Goes into the house, and fastens the door.*

ACT IV.

Enter AMPHITRYON.

AMPH.
to himself . Naucrates, whom I wanted to find, was not on board ship; neither at home nor in the city do I meet with any one that has seen him; for through all the streets have I crawled, the wrestling-rings and the perfumers' shops, to the market, too, and in the shambles, the school for exercise, and the Forum, the doctors' shops, the barbers' shops, and among all the sacred buildings. I'm wearied out with seeking him, and yet I nowhere meet with Naucrates. Now I'll go home, and from my wife will I continue to make enquiry into this matter, who the person was, by the side of whom she submitted her body to dishonor. For it were better that I was dead, than that I this day should leave this enquiry incomplete. *Goes up to the door.* But the house is closed. A pretty thing indeed! This is done just like the other things have been done: I'll knock at the door. *Knocks.* Open this door; ho there! is there anybody here? Is any one going to open this door?

MERCURY appears on the top of the house, with a chaplet on his head, pretending to be drunk.

MERCURY
Who's that at the door?

AMPH.
'Tis I.

MERCURY
Who's "'tis I?"

AMPH.
'Tis I that say so.

MERCURY

For sure, Jupiter and all the Deities are angered with you who are banging at the door this way.

AMPH.
In what manner?

MERCURY
In this manner, that without a doubt you must be spending a wretched life.

AMPH.
Sosia.

MERCURY
Well; I'm Sosia, unless you think that I've forgotten myself. What do you want now?

AMPH.
What, you rascal, and do you even ask me that, what it is I want?

MERCURY
I do so ask you; you blockhead, you've almost broken the hinges from off the door. Did you fancy that doors were supplied us at the public charge? Why are you looking up at me, you stupid? What do you want now for yourself, or what fellow are you?

AMPH.
You whip-scoundrel, do you even ask me who I am, you hell of elm-saplings? I' faith, this day I'll make you burn with smarts of the scourge for these speeches of yours.

MERCURY
You surely must have formerly been a spendthrift in your young days.

AMPH.
How so?

MERCURY
Because in your old age you come begging a hap-ill of me for yourself.

AMPH.
Slave! for your own torture do you give vent to these expressions this day.

MERCURY
Now I'm performing a sacrifice to you.

AMPH.
How?

MERCURY
Why, because I devote you to ill-luck with this libation. *Throws water on him. ...*

AMPH.
What, you, devote me, you villain? If the Gods have not this day taken away my usual form, I'll take care that you shall be laden with bull's hide thongs, you victim of Saturn. So surely will I devote you to the cross and to torture. Come out of doors, you whip-knave.

MERCURY
You shadowy ghost — you, frighten me with your threats? If you don't betake yourself off from here this instant, if you knock once more, if the door makes a noise with your little finger even, I'll break your head with this tile, so that with your teeth you may sputter out your tongue.

AMPH.
What, rascal, would you be for driving me away from my own house? What, would you hinder me from knocking at my own door? I'll this instant tear it from off all its hinges.

MERCURY
Do you persist?

AMPH.
I do persist.

MERCURY
Take that, then. *Throws a tile at him.*

AMPH.
Scoundrel! at your master? If I lay hands upon you this day, I'll bring you to that pitch of misery, that you shall be miserable for evermore.

MERCURY
Surely, you must have been playing the Bacchanal, old gentleman.

AMPH.
Why so?

MERCURY
Inasmuch as you take me to be your slave.

AMPH.
What? I — take you?

MERCURY
Plague upon you! I know no master but Amphitryon.

AMPH.
to himself . Have I lost my form? It's strange that Sosia shouldn't know me. I'll make trial. *Calling out* . How now! Tell me who I appear to be? Am I not really Amphitryon?

MERCURY
Amphitryon? Are you in your senses? Has it not been told you before, old fellow, that you have been playing the Bacchanal, to be asking another person who you are? Get away, I recommend you, don't be troublesome while Amphitryon, who has just come back from the enemy, is indulging himself with the company of his wife.

AMPH.

What wife?

MERCURY
Alcmena.

AMPH.
What man?

MERCURY
How often do you want it told? Amphitryon, my master; — don't be troublesome.

AMPH.
Who's he sleeping with?

MERCURY
Take care that you don't meet with some mishap in trifling with me this way.

AMPH.
Prithee, do tell me, my dear Sosia.

MERCURY
More civilly said — with Alcmena.

AMPH.
In the same chamber?

MERCURY
Yes, as I fancy, he is sleeping with her side by side.

AMPH.
Alas! — wretch that I am!

MERCURY
to the AUDIENCE . It really is a gain which he imagines to be a misfortune. For to lend one's wife to another is just as though you were to let out barren land to be ploughed.

AMPH.
Sosia!

MERCURY
What, the plague, about Sosia?

AMPH.
Don't you know me, you whip-scoundrel?

MERCURY
I know that you are a troublesome fellow, who have no need to go buy a lawsuit.

AMPH.
Still once more — am I not your master Amphitryon?

MERCURY
You are Bacchus himself, and not Amphitryon. How often do you want to be told? Any times more? My master Amphitryon, in the same chamber, is holding Alcmena in his embraces. If you persist, I'll produce him here, and not without your great discomfiture.

AMPH.
I wish him to be fetched. *Aside.* I pray that this day, in return for my services, I may not lose house, wife, and household, together with my figure.

MERCURY
Well, I'll fetch him; but, in the meantime, do you mind about the door, please. *Aside.* I suppose that by this he has brought the sacrifice that he was intending, as far as the banquet. *Aloud.* If you are troublesome, you shan't escape without my making a sacrifice of you. *He retires into the house.*

AMPH.
Ye Gods, by my trust in you, what madness is distracting my household? What wondrous things have I seen since I arrived from abroad! Why, it's true, surely, what was once heard tell of, how that

men of Attica were transformed in Arcadia, and remained as savage wild beasts, and were not ever afterwards known unto their parents.

Enter BLEPHARO and SOSIA, at a distance.

BLEPHARO
What's this, Sosia? Great marvels are these that you are telling of. Do you say that you found another Sosia at home exactly like yourself?

SOSIA
I do say so — but, hark you, since I have produced a Sosia, Amphitryon an Amphitryon, how do you know whether you, perchance, may not be producing another Blepharo? O that the Gods would grant that you as well, belaboured with fists, and with your teeth knocked out, going without your breakfast, might credit this. ForI, that other Sosia, that is to say, who am yonder, has mauled me in a dreadful manner.

BLEPHARO
Really, it is wonderful; but it's as well to mend our pace; for, as I perceive, Amphitryon is waiting for us, and my empty stomach is grumbling.

AMPH.
apart . —— And why do I mention foreign legends? More wondrous things they relate to have happened among our Theban race in former days; that mighty searcher for Europa, attacking the monster sprung from Mars, suddenly produced his enemies from the serpent-seed; and in that battle fought, brother pressed on brother with lance and helm; the Epirote land, too, beheld the author of our race, together with the daughter of Venus, gliding as serpents. From on high supreme Jove thus willed it; thus destiny directs. All the noblest of our country, in return for their bright achievements, are pursued with direful woes. This fatality is pressing hard on me — still I could endure disasters so great, and submit to woes hardly to be endured ——

SOSIA
Blepharo.

BLEPHARO
What's the matter?

SOSIA
I don't know; I suspect something wrong.

BLEPHARO
Why?

SOSIA
Look, please, our master, like an humble courtier, is walking before the door bolted fast.

BLEPHARO
It's nothing; walking to and fro, he's looking for an appetite.

SOSIA
After a singular fashion, indeed; for he has shut the door, that it mayn't escape out of the house.

BLEPHARO
You do go yelping on.

SOSIA
I go neither yelping on nor barking on; if you listen to me, observe him. I don't know why he's by himself alone; he's making some calculation, I suppose. I can hear from this spot what he says — don't be in a hurry.

AMPH.
apart . How much I fear lest the Gods should blot out the glory I have acquired in the conquest of the foe. In wondrous manner do I see the whole of my household in commotion. And then my wife, so full of viciousness, incontinence, and dishonor, kills me outright. But about the goblet, it is a singular thing; yet the seal was properly

affixed. And what besides? She recounted to me the battles I had fought; Pterelas, too, besieged and bravely slain by my own hand, Aye, aye — now I know the trick; this was done by Sosia's contrivance, who as well has disgracefully presumed to-day to get before me on my arrival.

SOSIA
to BLEPHARO . He's talking about me, and in terms that I had rather not. Prithee, don't let's accost this man until he has disclosed his wrath.

BLEPHARO
Just as you please.

AMPH.
apart . If it is granted me this day to lay hold of that whip-scoundrel, I'll show him what it is to deceive his master, and to assail me with threats and tricks.

SOSIA
Do you hear him?

BLEPHARO
I hear him.

SOSIA
That implement *pointing to AMPHITRYON'S walkingstick* is a burden for my shoulder-blades. Let's accost the man, if you please. Do you know what is in the habit of being commonly said?

BLEPHARO
What you are going to say, I don't know; what you'll have to endure I pretty well guess.

SOSIA
It's an old adage— "Hunger and delay summon anger to the nostrils."

BLEPHARO
Aye, and well suited to the occasion. Let's address him directly — Amphitryon!

AMPH.
looking round . Is it Blepharo I hear? It's strange why he's come to me. Still, he presents himself opportunely, for me to prove the guilty conduct of my wife. Why have you come here to me, Blepharo?

BLEPHARO
Have you so soon forgotten how early in the morning you sent Sosia to the ship, that I might take a repast with you to-day?

AMPH.
Never in this world was it done. But where is that scoundrel?

BELPH.
Who?

AMPH.
Sosia.

BLEPHARO
See, there he is. *Points at him.*

AMPH.
looking about . Where? BLEPH. Before your eyes; don't you see him?

AMPH.
I can hardly see for anger, so distracted has that fellow made me this day. You shall never escape my making a sacrifice of you. *Offers to strike SOSIA, on which BLEPHARO prevents him.* Do let me, Blepharo.

BLEPHARO
Listen, I pray.

AMPH.
Say on, I'm listening — *gives a blow to SOSIA* you take that.

SOSIA
For what reason? Am I not in good time? I couldn't have gone quicker, if I had betaken myself on the oar-like wings of Dædalus. *AMPHITRYON tries to strike him again.*

BLEPHARO
Prithee, do leave him alone; we couldn't quicken our pace any further.

AMPH.
Whether it was the pace of a man on stilts or that of the tortoise, I'm determined to be the death of this villain. *Striking him at each sentence.* Take that for the roof; that for the tiles; that for closing the door; that for making fun of your master; that for your abusive language.

BLEPHARO
What injury has he been doing to you?

AMPH.
Do you ask? Shut out of doors, from that housetop *pointing to it* he has driven me away from my house.

SOSIA
What, I?

AMPH.
What did you threaten that you would do if I knocked at that door? Do you deny it, you scoundrel?

SOSIA
Why shouldn't I deny it? See, he's sufficiently a witness with whom I have just now come; I was sent on purpose that by your invitation I might bring him to your house.

AMPH.
Who sent you, villain?

SOSIA
He who asks me the question.

AMPH.
When, of all things?

SOSIA
Some little time since-not long since — just now. When you were reconciled at home to your wife.

AMPH.
Bacchus must have demented you.

SOSIA
May I not be paying my respects to Bacchus this day, nor yet to Ceres. You ordered the vessels to be made clean, that you might perform a sacrifice, and you sent me to fetch him *pointing to BLEPHARO* , that he might breakfast with you.

AMPH.
Blepharo, may I perish outright if I have either been in the house, or if I have sent him. *To SOSIA.* Tell me — where did you leave me?

SOSIA
At home, with your wife Alcmena. Leaving you, I flew towards the harbour, and invited him in your name. We are come, and I've not seen you since till now.

AMPH.
Villanous fellow! With my wife, say you? You shall never go away without getting a beating. *Gives him a blow.*

SOSIA
crying out . Blepharo! BLEPH. Amphitryon, do let him alone, for my sake, and listen to me.

AMPH.
Well then, I'll let him alone. What do you want? Say on.

BLEPHARO
He has just now been telling me most extraordi nary marvels. A juggler, or a sorcerer, perhaps, has enchanted all this household of yours. Do enquire in other quarters, and examine how it is. And don't cause this poor fellow to be tortured, before you understand the matter.

AMPH.
You give good advice; let's go in, I want you also to be my advocate against my wife. *Knocks at the door.*

Enter JUPITER, from the house.

JUPITER
Who with such weighty blows has been shaking this door on all the hinges? Who has been making such a great disturbance for this long while before the house? If I find him out, I'll sacrifice him to the shades of the Teleboans. There's nothing, as the common saying is, that goes on well with me to-day. I left Blepharo and Sosia that I might find my kinsman Naucrates; him I have not found, and them I have lost. But I espy them; I'll go meet them, to enquire if they have any news.

SOSIA
Blepharo, that's our master that's coming out of the house; but this man's the sorcerer.

BLEPHARO
O Jupiter! What do I behold? This is not, but that is, Amphitryon; if this is, why really that cannot be he, unless, indeed, he is double.

JUPITER
See now, here's Sosia with Blepharo; I'll accost them the first. Well, Sosia, come to us at last? I'm quite hungry.

SOSIA
Didn't I tell you, Blepharo, that this one was the sorcerer?

AMPH.
Nay, Theban citizens, I say that this is he *pointing to JUPITER* who in my house has made my wife guilty of incontinence, through whom I find a store of unchastity laid up for me.

SOSIA
to JUPITER Master, if now you are hungry, crammed full of fisticuffs, I betake me to you.

AMPH.
Do you persist, whip-scoundrel?

SOSIA
Hie thee to Acheron, sorcerer.

AMPH.
What, I a sorcerer? *Strikes him.* Take that.

JUPITER
What madness possesses you, stranger, for you to be beating my servant?

AMPH.
Your servant?

JUPITER
Mine.

AMPH.
You lie.

JUPITER
Sosia, go in-doors, and take care the breakfast is got ready while I'm sacrificing this fellow.

SOSIA
I'll go. *Aside.* Amphitryon, I suppose, will receive the other Amphitryon as courteously as I, that other Sosia, did me, Sosia, a while ago. Meantime, while they are contending, I'll turn aside into the victualling department: I'll clean out all the dishes, and all the vessels I'll drain. *Goes into the house.*

JUPITER, AMPHITRYON, and BLEPHARO.

JUPITER
Do you say that I lie?

AMPH.
You lie, I say, you corrupter of my family.

JUPITER
For that disgraceful speech, I'll drag you along here, seizing you by the throat. *Seizes him by the throat.*

AMPH.
Ah wretched me!

JUPITER
But you should have had a care of this beforehand.

AMPH.
Blepharo, aid me!

BLEPHARO
aside . The two are so exactly alike that I don't know which to side with. Still, so far as possible, I'll put an end to their contention. *Aloud.* Amphitryon, don't slay Amphitryon in fight; let go his throat, I pray.

JUPITER
Are you calling this fellow Amphitryon?

BLEPHARO

Why not? Formerly he was but one, but now he has become double. While you are wanting to be he, the other, too, doesn't cease to be of his form. Meanwhile, prithee, do leave go of his neck.

JUPITER
I will leave go. *Lets go of AMPHITRYON.* But tell me, does that fellow appear to you to be Amphitryon?

BLEPR.
Really, both of you do.

AMPH.
O supreme Jupiter! when this day didst thou take from me my form? I'll proceed to make enquiry of him; are you Amphitryon?

JUPITER
Do you deny it?

AMPH.
Downright do I deny it, inasmuch as in Thebes there is no other Amphitryon besides myself.

JUPITER
On the contrary, no other besides myself; and, in fact, do you, Blepharo, be the judge.

BLEPHARO
I'll make this matter clear by proofs, if I can. *To AMPHITRYON.* Do you answer first.

AMPH.
With pleasure.

BLEPHARO
Before the battle with the Taphians was begun by you, what orders did you give me?

AMPH.

The ship being in readiness, for you carefully to keep close to the rudder.

JUPITER
That if our people should take to flight, I might betake myself in safety thither.

BLEPHARO
Anything else as well?

AMPH.
That the bag loaded with treasure should be carefully guarded.

JUPITER
Because the money ——

BLEPHARO
Hold your tongue, you, if you please; it's my place to ask. Did you know the amount?

JUPITER
Fifty Attic talents.

BLEPHARO
He tells the truth to a nicety. And you *to AMPHITRYON* , how many Philippeans?

AMPH.
Two thousand.

JUPITER
And obols twice as many.

BLEPHARO
Each of you states the matter correctly. Inside the bag one of you must have been shut up.

JUPITER

Attend, please. With this right hand, as you know, I slew king Pterelas; his spoils I seized, and the goblet from which he had been used to drink I brought away in a casket; I made a present of it to my wife, with whom this day at home I bathed, I sacrificed, and slept.

AMPH.
Ah me! what do I hear? I scarcely am myself. For, awake, I am asleep; awake, I am in a dream; alive and well, I come to destruction. I am that same Amphitryon, the descendant of Gorgophone, the general of the Thebans, and the sole combatant for Creon against the Teleboans; I, who have subdued by my might the Acarnanians and the Taphians, and, by my consummate warlike prowess, their king. Over these have I appointed Cephalus, the son of the great Deioneus.

JUPITER
I am he who by warfare and my valour crushed the hostile ravagers. They had destroyed Electryon and the brothers of my wife. Wandering through the Ionian, the Ægean, and the Cretan seas, with piratical violence they laid waste Achaia, Ætolia, and Phocis.

AMPH.
Immortal Gods! I cannot trust my own self, so exactly does he relate all the things that happened there. Consider, Blepharo.

BLEPHARO
One thing only remains; if so it is, do you be Amphitryons both of you.

JUPITER
I knew what you would say. The scar that I have on the muscle of my right arm, from the wound which Pterelas gave me ——

BLEPHARO
Well, that.

AMPH.
Quite to the purpose.

JUPITER
See you! look, behold!

BLEPHARO
Uncover, and I'll look.

JUPITER
We have uncovered. Look! *They show their naked arms.*

BLEPHARO
looking at the right arm of each . Supreme Jupiter, what do I behold? On the right-arm muscle of each, in the same spot, the scar clearly appears with the same mark, reddish and somewhat livid, just as it has first commenced to close. Reasoning is at a standstill, all judgment is struck dumb; I don't know what to do

BLEPHARO
Do you settle these matters between yourselves; I'm off, for I have business; and I do not think that I have ever anywhere beheld such extraordinary wonders.

AMPH.
Blepharo, I pray that you'll stay as my advocate, and not go away.

BLEPHARO
Farewell. What need is there of me for an advocate, who don't know which of the two to side with?

JUPITER
I'm going hence in-doors: Alcmena is in labour. *Exit BLEPHARO, and JUPITER goes into AMPHITRYON'S house.*

AMPH.
aloud to himself . I'm undone, wretch that I am; for what am I to do, when my advocates and friends are now forsaking me? Never, by heavens, shall he deride me unrevenged, whoever he is. Now will I betake myself straight to the king, and tell him of the matter as it has happened. By my faith, I will this day take vengeance on this

Thessalian sorcerer, who has wrongfully distracted the minds of my household. But where is he? *Looking around.* By my troth, he's off into the house, to my wife, I suppose. What other person lives in Thebes more wretched than myself? What now shall I do? I, whom all men deny and deride just as they please. I am resolved; I'll burst into the house; there, whatever person I perceive, whether maid-servant or man-servant, whether wife or whether paramour, whether father or whether grandfather, I'll behead that person in the house; neither Jupiter nor all the Deities shall hinder me from this, even if they would, but that I'll do just as I have resolved. *As he advances to the door, it thunders, and he falls in a swoon upon the ground.*

ACT V.

Enter BROMIA, from the house, AMPHITRYON lying on the ground.

BROMIA
to herself . The hopes and resources of my life lie buried in my breast, nor is there any boldness in my heart, but what I have lost it. So much to me do all things seem, the sea, the earth, the heavens, to be conspiring, that now I may be crushed, that I may be destroyed. Ah, wretched me! I know not what to do. Prodigies so great have come to pass within the house. Ah! woe is me! I'm sick at heart, some water I could wish! I'm overpowered and I'm utterly undone. My head is aching, and I cannot hear, nor do I see well with my eyes No woman is there more wretched than myself, nor can one seem to be more so. Thus has it this day befallen my mistress; for when she invoked for herself the Deities of travail, what rumblings and grumblings, crashes and flashes; suddenly, how instantaneously did it thunder, and how woundy loud. On the spot where each one stood, at the peal he fell; then some one, I know not who, exclaimed in a mighty voice, "Alcmena, succour is at hand, fear not: propitious both to thee and thine, the Ruler of the Heavens comes. Arise," it said, "ye who have fallen down in your terror through dread of me." As I lay, I arose; I fancied that the house was in flames. Then Alcmena called me; and then did that circumstance strike me with horror. Fears for my mistress took possession of me; I ran to her to enquire what she wanted; and then I beheld that she had given birth to two male children; not yet did any one of us perceive when she was delivered, or indeed expect it. *Sees AMPHITRYON.* But what's this? Who's this old man that's lying thus before our house? Has Jupiter then smitten him with his thunders? By my troth, I think so; for, oh Jupiter! he is in a lethargy just like one dead. I'll approach, that I may learn who it is. *She advances.* Surely, this is my master Amphitryon. *Calls aloud.* Ho! Amphitryon!

AMPH.
I'm dead.

BROMIA
Arise.

AMPH.
I'm slain outright.

BROMIA
Give me your hand. *Takes his hand.*

AMPH.
recovering . Who is it that has hold of me?

BROMIA
Bromia, your maid-servant.

AMPH.
rising . I tremble all over, to such a degree has Jove pealed against me. And no otherwise is it than if I had come hither from Acheron. But why have you come out of the house?

BROMIA
The same alarm has scared ourselves, affrighted with horror; in the house where you yourself dwell, have I seen astounding prodigies. Woe to me, Amphitryon; even now do my senses fail me to such a degree.

AMPH.
Come now, tell me; do you know me to be your master Amphitryon?

BROMIA
I do know it.

AMPH.
Look even once again.

BROMIA
I do know it.

AMPH.
She alone of all my household has a sane mind.

BROMIA
Nay but, really, they are all of them sane.

AMPH.
But my wife causes me to be insane by her own shameful practices.

BROMIA
But I'll make you, Amphitryon, to be holding other language; that you may understand that your wife is dutiful and chaste, upon that subject I will in a few words discover some tokens and some proofs. In the first place of all, Alcmena has given birth to two sons.

AMPH.
Two, say you?

BROMIA
Two.

AMPH.
The Gods preserve me!

BROMIA
Allow me to speak, that you may know that all the Deities are propitious to yourself and to your wife.

AMPH.
Say on.

BROMIA
After that, this day, your wife began to be in labour, when the pangs of childbirth came on, as is the custom with women in travail, she invoked the immortal Gods to give her aid, with washed hands and with covered head. Then forthwith it thundered with most tremendous crash. At first we thought that your house was falling; all your house shone bright, as though it had been made of gold.

AMPH.
Prithee, relieve me quickly from this, since you have kept me long enough in suspense. What happened then?

BROMIA
While these things were passing, meanwhile, not one of us heard your wife groaning or complaining; and thus, in fact, without pain was she delivered.

AMPH.
Then do I rejoice at this, whatever she has merited at my hands.

BROMIA
Leave that alone, and hear these things which I shall tell you. After she was delivered, she bade us wash the babes; we commenced to do so. But that child which I washed, how stout, how very powerful he is; and not a person was there, able to wrap him in the swaddling-clothes.

AMPH.
Most wondrous things you tell of. If these things are true, I do not apprehend but that succour has been brought to my wife from heaven.

BROMIA
Now shall I make you own to things more wondrous still. After he was laid in the cradle, two immense crested serpents glided down through the skylight; instantly they both reared their heads.

AMPH.
Ah me!

BROMIA
Be not dismayed — but the serpents began to gaze upon all around. After they beheld the children, quickly they made towards the cradle; I, fearing for the children, alarmed for myself, going backwards, began to draw and pull the cradle to and fro, and so much the more fiercely did the serpents pursue. After that one of the children caught

sight of the serpents, he quickly leapt from the cradle, straightway he made an attack upon them, ana suddenly he grasped them, one in each hand.

AMPH.
You tell of wondrous things; a very fearful exploit do you relate; for at your words horror steals upon the limbs of wretched me. What happened then? Say on.

BBOM.
The child slew both the serpents. While these things are passing, in a loud voice there calls upon your wife ——

AMPH.
What person —— ?

BROMIA
Jupiter, the supreme Ruler of Gods and men. He said that he had secretly enjoyed Alcmena in his embraces, and that he was his own son who had overcome those serpents; the other, he said, was your child.

AMPH.
By my troth, I am not sorry if I am allowed to take my half of a blessing in partnership with Jupiter. Go home, and bid the sacred vessels to be at once prepared for me, that with many victims I may seek my peace with supreme Jove. I will apply to Tiresias the soothsayer, and consult him what he considers ought to be done; at the same time I'll relate to him this matter just as it has happened. *It thunders.* But what means this? How dreadfully it thunders! Ye Gods, your mercy, I do entreat.

JUPITER appears, in his own character, above.

JUPITER
Be of good cheer, Amphitryon; I am come to thy aid: thou hast nothing to fear; all diviners and soothsayers let alone. What is to be, and what has past, I will tell thee; and so much better than they can,

inasmuch as I am Jupiter. First of all, I have made loan of the person of Alcmena, and have caused her to be pregnant with a son. Thou, too, didst cause her to be pregnant, when thou didst set out upon the expedition; at one birth has she brought forth the two together. One of these, the one that is sprung from my parentage, shall bless thee with deathless glory by his deeds. Do thou return with Alcmena to your former affection; she merits not that thou shouldst impute it to her as her blame; by my power has she been compelled thus to act. I now return to the heavens. *He ascends.*

AMPH.
I'll do as thou dost command me; and I entreat thee to keep thy promises. I'll go in-doors to my wife. I dismiss the aged Tiresias from my thoughts.

An ACTOR.
Spectators, now, for the sake of supreme Jove, give loud applause.

ASINARIA

Translated by Henry Thomas Riley

The title of this comic drama can be translated as ‘The One with the Asses’ and is famous for containing the lines “Lupus est homo homini, non homo, quom qualis sit non novit,” (A man is a wolf rather than a man to another man, when he hasn’t yet found out what he’s like) and the quotation “Facias ipse quod faciamus nobis suades,” (Practice yourself what you preach).

The action takes place in Athens, near the homes of the old man Demaenetus and the procuress Cleareta. Demaenetus is submissive to his wife Artemona, but wishes to help his son Argyrippus gain money to free his lover, the *hetaera* (courtesan) Philenium, who works for Cleareta. Demaenetus conspires with his slaves Libanus and Leonida to cheat his wealthy wife of the money. The play belongs to the genre *fabula palliate* – a Greek play adapted for a Roman audience.

This painting, on the inside of a kylix, depicts a hetaira playing kottabos, a drinking game played at a symposia, in which the participants flicked the dregs of their wine at a target.

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THE SUBJECT

ARGYRIPPUS,
the son of Demænetus, is violently in love with Philenium, a young woman, who is living with her mother, Cleæreta, a procuress. The latter has made an agreement with a Captain, of the name of Diabolus, to transfer Philenium to him for twenty minæ, on condition, however, that if Argyrippus shall first pay that sum, he shall have her. Argyrippus, having exhausted all his own resources, applies to his father, Demænetus, an over-indulgent and immoral old man, and requests him to furnish him with twenty minæ. Demænetus is married to Artemona, a rich woman, and is totally dependant on the will of herself and her favourite slave, the chamberlain Saurea. Being destitute of money, Demænetus orders his servant, Libanus, by some means or other to cheat his mistress or the chamberlain out of that sum. Just then an ass-dealer arrives, to pay to Saurea twenty minæ, the price of some asses which he has previously purchased. Libanus then arranges with his fellow-servant, Leonida, that the latter shall personate Saurea, and so receive the money from the ass-dealer. This is done, and the money is paid to Leonida, in the presence of Demænetus, who assures the dealer that Leonida really is the person to whom the money is payable. This sum is then given to Argyrippus, but with the disgraceful stipulation that for one day his father shall enjoy the company of Philenium. This he submits to, and the three sit down to a banquet. The Captain discovers this, and sends his Parasite to inform Artemona of her husband's conduct. She accordingly accompanies the Parasite, and discovers her husband in the company of his son and the young woman; after soundly rating him, she leads him off; while Argyrippus remains in possession of Philenium.

THE PROLOGUE.

PROLOGUS

Attend now, Spectators, if you please, forthwith to this, and may this matter turn out fortunately for me and for yourselves, and for this company, and for our employers, and for our managers. Now, crier, do you at once make all the people give. attentive ear. Come, be seated now, only be careful that 'tis not for nought. Now I will tell you why I have come forward here, and what my intention is, that you may know the name of this play. For, so far as relates to the plot, it really is a short one. Now I will tell you what I said I was wishful to inform you upon. The name of this play in Greek is Onagos — Demophilus composed it — MarcusPlautus turned it into Latin. He wishes it to be called Asinaria if by your leaves it may be so. In this play there is both pleasantry and fun. 'Tis a droll story; kindly lend me your attention; may Mars, too, as, full oft at other times he has done, so give you now his aid.

ACT I.

Enter DEMÆNETUS and LIBANUS, from the house of the former.

LIBANUS
As you desire your own only son to survive your own existence, prosperous, and living on; so by your lengthened years, and by that wife of yours of whom you stand in awe, do I conjure you, that if this day you have said anything that's false against myself, your wife may then survive your own existence, and that, she living, you, still alive, may come to utter destruction.

DEMAENETUS
By the Gods above as to what you seek to know, I see that I must, perforce, speak out, whatever you question me upon, being thus conjured; so determinedly have you accosted me, that I really do not dare otherwise than to disclose everything to you making all these enquiries. Say then at once what it is that you desire so much to know; as I myself shall know, so will I let you know.

LIBANUS
Troth now, prithee answer me seriously what I ask you; take care that you tell me no falsehood.

DEMAENETUS
Why, then, don't you ask?

LIBANUS
Will you, then, be sending me there, where stone grinds stone?

DEMAENETUS
What place is that? Or where in the world is that place?

LIBANUS
Where worthless men are weeping, who breakfast upon pearled barley.

DEMAENETUS
What that place is, or where it is, I cannot understand, where worthless men are weeping, who breakfast upon pearled barley.

LIBANUS
Why, in the islands of club-land and rattle- chains, where dead oxen attack living men.

DEMAENETUS
I' faith, I now understand, Libanus, what place it is; that perhaps you mean, where the pearled barley is prepared.

LIBANUS
O dear: I'm not speaking of that, i' faith, nor do I wish to speak of it. Troth now, prithee, do spit out the words that you have spoken.

DEMAENETUS
Be it so; you shall be indulged. *He coughs and spits.*

LIBANUS
Come, come — hawk away.

DEMAENETUS
What, still more? *Spits on.*

LIBANUS
Troth now; prithee, do go on — still more.

DEMAENETUS
What-from the very bottom of my throat? *Spits.*

LIBANUS
Even more still.

DEMAENETUS
Why, how long? *Spits.*

LIBANUS

I want you, even to the death ——

DEMAENETUS
Take you care of a woful mishap, if you please.

LIBANUS
Of your wife, I mean, not of yourself.

DEMAENETUS
For that speech, I give you leave to be free from apprehension.

LIBANUS
May the Gods grant you whatever you desire.

DEMAENETUS
In return, give me your attention. Why should I ask this of you? Or why should I threaten you, because you have not made me acquainted with it? Or why, in fine, should I censure my son as other fathers do?

LIBANUS
What new affair is this? *Aside.* I wonder much what it is, and I'm in dread what the upshot of it may be.

DEMAENETUS
In fact, I'm now aware that my son's in love with that Courtesan Philenium, that lives close by. Is not this as I say, Libanus?

LIBANUS
You are upon the right track; such is the fact. But a dreadful malady has overtaken him.

DEMAENETUS
What is the malady?

LIBANUS
Why, that his presents don't equal his promises.

DEMAENETUS
Are you, then, one who assists my son in his amours?

LIBANUS
I really am, and our Leonida is another.

DEMAENETUS
I' faith, you do kindly, and you gain thanks from me. But this wife of mine, Libanus, don't you know what sort of a person she is?

LIBANUS
You are the first to experience it, but we give a guess beforehand.

DEMAENETUS
I confess that she is troublesome and not to be pleased.

LIBANUS
You say that later than I believed you in it.

DEMAENETUS
All parents, Libanus, who listen to me, will show indulgence to their children, inasmuch as they will find their sons more kindly disposed and more affectionate; and that do I desire to do myself. I wish to be loved by mine; I wish myself to be like my father, who, for my sake, himself in the disguise of a ship-master, carried off from a procurer a female with whom I was in love; nor was he ashamed, at that time of life, to devise stratagems, and to purchase with good turns me, his son, for himself. These ways of my father have I resolved to imitate. For to-day my son Argyrippus has entreated me to give him a supply of money for his amours; and I very much wish in that to oblige my son. I wish to forward his amours; I wish him to be fond of myself, his father. Although his mother keeps him strictly, and with a tight rein, as fathers have been in the habit of doing, all that I dismiss. Especially as he has deemed me deserving, for him to entrust it to ire, I ought to pay all due regard to his feelings. Inasmuch as he has applied to me, as it is right that a respectful son should do, I wish him to have some money for him to give to his mistress * * * * *

LIBANUS
You are desiring that which I find you are do siring to no purpose. Your wife brought her servant Saurea with her on her marriage, who has more in his control trol than you have.

DEMAENETUS
I received money with her, and for the portion I sold my authority. Now I'll compress into a few words what I want of you; my son is now in need of twenty silver minæ: do you manage that it may be forthwith found for him.

LIBANUS
From what place in the world?

DEMAENETUS
Cheat me of them.

LIBANUS
You are talking downright nonsense. You are bidding me take the clothes from off a naked man. I, cheat you? — come now, fly you without wings, please. What, am I to cheat you who have nothing in your power for your own self? Unless you have first cheated your wife out of something.

DEMAENETUS
Impose upon or rob myself in any way you can, my wife in any way, my servant Saurea in any way. I promise you that it shall not prove to your detriment, if you effect it to-day.

LIBANUS
On the same principle you might bid me to fish in the air, and to hunt with a javelin in the midst of the sea.

DEMAENETUS
Take Leonida as your coadjutor; devise some plan or other, think of some expedient: bring it about that my son this day gets some money to give his mistress.

LIBANUS
What say you, Demænetus * * * * * if the foe should intercept me, will you ransom me?

DEMAENETUS
I will ransom you.

LIBANUS
Then do you attend to something else, whatever you please.

DEMAENETUS
I'm off to the Forum, unless you wish for anything.

LIBANUS
Be of — why are you not walking?

DEMAENETUS
And do you hear, too —— ?

LIBANUS
Well now.

DEMAENETUS
If I want you for anything, where will you be?

LIBANUS
Wherever it shall be agreable to my feelings. Really, there's not a person that I shall stand in dread of from this time forward, for fear he might be able to do me an injury, since in your discourse you have disclosed to me all your sentiments. Why, your own self even I don't stand much in awe of, if I carry this out. I'll go where I intended, and there I'll commune upon my plans.

DEMAENETUS
Do you hear me? I shall be with Archibulus, the banker.

LIBANUS
In the Forum, you mean? DEM. There, if there shall be any occasion

for me.

LIBANUS
I'll remember it. *(Exit.)*

DEMAENETUS
to himself Not any servant can there be more artful than this fellow, nor yet more crafty, nor one that it is more difficult for you to be on your guard against. If you want anything well managed, entrust it to this same fellow; he'd rather he should die in wretchedness, than not have that quite completed which he has promised. For I know that this money is as surely forthcoming for my son, as that I look upon this same walking-stick. But why am I delaying to go to the Forum where I had intended ... *(Exit.)*

Enter ARGYRIPPUS, from the house of CLEÆRETA, addressing her within.

ARGYRIPPUS
Is't thus it is, — me to be shut out of doors? Is this the reward that's given to me who deserve so highly of you? To him who deserves well you are unkind, to him who deserves ill you are indulgent. But to your own misfortune, for now from this spot will I go to the Triumvirs, and there I'll take care your names shall be. I'll punish capitally yourself and your daughter, you enticers, pests, and destruction of young men! For, compared with you, the sea is not the sea; you are a most dangerous sea. For on the sea did I find it, here have I been cleaned out of my wealth. What I have given, and what kindnesses I have done, I find them all valueless for good, and thrown away. But from hence-forth, whatever harm I shall be able to do you, I will do it, and do it at your deserts. I' faith, I'll reduce you to the verge of poverty, that state from which you have risen. By my troth, I'll make you to know what you now are, and what you once were; what you were before I visited that daughter of yours, and, in my passion, bestowed upon her my affection; on coarse bread you were enjoying your life, in rags, and in want. And if these you had, especial thanks did you return to all the Divinities. Now, bad woman,

you the same person, when 'tis better with you, don't know me through whose means it is so. From a wild beast, I'll make you tame through hunger, only trust me for that. But I have no reason to blame your daughter herself; she does not deserve it in the least. She acts by your command; she obeys your bidding; you are her mother, you too her mistress. I'll revenge myself on you; I'll ruin you; as you are deserving, and as you merit at my hands. But look now, the hag, how she really doesn't think me worthy for her to come to and address and deprecate my resentment. But, see, the enticer's coming out at last, I think. Here. before the door, I'll address her in my own fashion, as I please, since I'm not allowed to do so within.

Enter CLEÆRETA, from her house.

CLEAERETA
If any purchaser should come, he could not carry him away from me each single word of those for gold Philippean pieces. What you say wrongfully against us is good gold and silver. Your heart is locked up here with us, at the helm of Cupid. With oars and with sails make haste and fly as fast as you can; the further you betake yourself to sea, the more the tide will bring you back to harbour.

ARGYRIPPUS
I faith, I'll be depriving this custom-house officer of his dues. From henceforth I'll persist in treating you as you have deserved of me and mine, since you have treated me not as I deserve, in excluding me from your house.

CLEAERETA
I know that that is rather said with the tongue, than that it will happen in deed.

ARGYRIPPUS
I alone have brought you from obscurity and from want; if I alone patronize you, you can never return sufficient thanks.

CLEAERETA
Do you still be the only one to patronize me, if you alone will always

give me what I ask. Do you always keep what has been promised you, on this condition, that you surpass others in your presents.

ARGYRIPPUS
What limit is there to be to giving? For really you can never be satisfied; the moment that you've received something, not very long after, you are devising something for you to be asking for.

CLEAERETA
What limit is there to be to your enjoying yourself, and to your indulging your amour? Can you never be satisfied? The moment that you have sent her home, that instant, you are directly asking me to send her back to you.

ARGYRIPPUS
In fact, I have given whatever you have demanded of me.

CLEAERETA
And I have sent the damsel to you. A requital has been given, like for like; a return for the money.

ARGYRIPPUS
You treat me badly.

CLEAERETA
Why do you blame me if I do my duty? For nowhere is it either feigned in story or represented in pictures or written in poems, where a procuress, who wishes to thrive, treats any lover well.

ARGYRIPPUS
Still, 'twere right for you to show favour to me at least, that I might last the longer for you.

CLEAERETA
Don't you know, the woman that shows favour to a lover, that same woman shows little favour to herself? Just like a fish, so is a lover to a procuress; he's good for nothing if ne isn't fresh. Then it has juice, then it has sweetness; in any fashion you like you may season it,

either stewed or roasted; ill any way you will, you may turn it. So the lover; he's ready to give, he longs for something to be asked of him, for there it's taken from a full stock, nor does he know what he's giving, or what mischief he's doing. Of this matter does the new lover think; he wishes himself to please his mistress, he wishes to please me, he wishes to please her lady's maid, he wishes to please the men-servants, he wishes to please the maid-servants as well, and even my dog does he caress, that when it sees him, it may be delighted. I tell the truth; it shows cleverness for every person to be fair-dealing for his own advantage.

ARGYRIPPUS
I've thoroughly learned that this is true, to my own great misfortune.

CLEARETA
I' faith, if you now had anything to give, you'd be uttering different remarks; now, since you've got nothing, you expect to be having her by means of harsh language.

ARGYRIPPUS
'Tis not my way.

CLEARETA
Nor yet mine, indeed, i' faith, to be sending her to you for nothing; but this shall be done out of regard for your youthful age and your own sake, since you have rather been the cause of profit to us than of reputation to yourself. If two talents of silver are paid me down, reckoned in my hand, this night will I grant you for nothing, as a present, by reason of my respect for you.

ARGYRIPPUS
What if I haven't it?

CLEARETA
I'll believe that you haven't it — still, she shall go to another.

ARGYRIPPUS
Where is that which I have given you already?

CLEAERETA
Spent; for if it was remaining to me, the damsel should be sent to you, and I should never ask for anything. Daylight, water, the sun, the moon, the night, these things I purchase not with money; the rest, whatever we wish to enjoy, we purchase on Grecian trust. When we ask bread of the baker, wine from the wineshop — if they receive the money, they give their wares; the same principle do I go upon. My hands always have eyes in them; they believe what they see. There's an old saying, "trusting is good for nought;" you know whose it is — I say no more.

ARGYRIPPUS
Now I'm clean stripped, you tell me another tale; a very different one, I say, you give me now from formerly, when I was making presents; a different one from formerly, when with kindness and good words you used to entice me to your house. Then did your house even smile upon me, when I used to come to you. You used to say that I alone of all loved you and her. When I had given anything, just like the young ones of a pigeon were you both upon my lips; and all your likings were according to my own liking. You always kept close to me; whatever I requested, whatever I wished, you used to do; what I didn't wish and forbade, that, with carefulness, you used to avoid, nor did you first venture to attempt to do it. Now, you jades, you don't much care either what I do wish or what I don't wish.

CLEAERETA
Don't you know? This calling of ours is very like that of the fowler. The fowler, when he has prepared the spot, sprinkles the food about. The birds are accustomed to the spot. 'Tis necessary for him to make an outlay, who seeks for gain. They eat often; if they are caught once, they reimburse the fowler. So in like manner here with us. Our house is the spot, I am the fowler, the courtesan is the food, the couch is the decoy, the lovers the birds. By kindly welcoming them, by addressing them courteously, by dallying, and by chattering over the wine, and amusing conversation, they are won. If one of them has touched her bosom, that is not without advantage to the fowler. If he has taken a kiss, him you may take without a net. That you should be

forgetful of these things, you who have been schooled so long!

ARGYRIPPUS
That's your own fault, in turning away from you a scholar half instructed.

CLEAERETA
Come back again without hesitation, if you've got the pay; for the present, be off. *Pretends to go.*

ARGYRIPPUS
Stay, stay; don't you hear me? Say what you think it fair that I should give you for her, that for this year she may be with no one else.

CLEAERETA
What, you? Twenty minæ. And on this condition: if any other person shall bring them first to me, to you — good-bye.

ARGYRIPPUS
But I —— There's still something that I wish to say to you before you go.

CLEAERETA
Say what you please.

ARGYRIPPUS
I'm not entirely ruined yet; there's still something more left for me to come to ruin. I have wherewithal to give you what you ask; but I'll give it you on my own terms, that you may be enabled to understand that throughout all this year she is to be at my service, and that, in the meantime, she is to admit no other man whatever to her, besides myself.

CLEAERETA
Why, if you choose, the male-servants that are at home, I'll make eunuchs of. In fine, take you care and bring articles of agreement that we will be as you wish. Impose conditions upon us as you wish, and

as you shall choose. Do you only bring the money with you, I'll readily put up with the rest. The doors of procurers are very like those of a custom-house officer; if you bring anything, then they are opened; if there is nothing for you to give, then the doors are not opened. *Goes into her house.*

ARGYRIPPUS
to himself . I'm undone, if I don't procure these twenty minæ. And really, unless I make away with this much money, I must come to destruction. Now I'll go to the Forum, and make trial with my resources, with all my endeavours. I'll beg, I'll earnestly entreat each friend as I see him; both good and bad am I determined to apply to, and make trial of. But if I can't borrow it, I'll take it up at interest, I'm resolved. *(Goes into the house of DEMÆNETUS.)*

ACT II.

Enter LIBANUS, from the house of DEMÆNETUS.

LIBANUS
Upon my faith, Libanus, it really were better for you now to be waking, and to be devising some plan for procuring the money. A long time has now elapsed, since you parted with your master and went to the Forum. For that end that you might devise some plan for procuring the money, there till this time of day have you been sleeping at your ease. Why don't you away with all slothfulness from yourself, and remove all sluggishness, and betake yourself again to your former dexterous ingenuity. Preserve your master; take you care, too, how you do the same that other servants are wont, who employ a clever ingenuity in cheating their master? Whence shall I get it? Whom shall I diddle out of it? Whither shall 1 steer this fly-boat? 'Tis settled, 'tis confirmed by auspices; on each side do the birds give good omens. The woodpecker and the crow are on my right, the raven, as well, upon my left. They are persuading me to it: i' faith, I'm resolved to follow your advice. *Starts and listens.* But what means this, that the woodpecker is tapping the elm-tree? That's not for nothing. Troth, for certain, so far as I can gather omens from augury, the rods are in readiness for my own back, or for Saurea the chamberlain. But what means this that Leonida is running this way out of breath? I fear that this bodes ill for my trumped-up schemes *Stands apart.*

Enter LEONIDA, running.

LEONIDA
to himself . Where now shall I find Libanus, or my master's son, that I may make them more mirthful than is Mirth herself? Great booty and a triumph do I bring them on my arrival. Inasmuch as together with me they drink, together with me they are wont to wench, why, this booty that I've got, together with them will I share it.

LIBANUS

apart . This fellow has been robbing a house, if he has been acting after his usual manner. Woe to the person that has so carelessly kept the door!

LEONIDA
to himself . I could be ready to be a slave for an age, if I could only meet with Libanus.

LIBANUS
apart . I' faith, with my assistance, indeed, you shall never be free a bit the sooner.

LEONIDA
to himself . I'd give two hundred teeming lashes on my back as well.

LIBANUS
apart . He's giving away all his substance, for he carries his treasures on his back.

LEONIDA
to himself . But if time should intervene upon this opportunity, never, upon my faith, will he hereafter obtain it again, oven with white horses. He'll be deserting his master in the siege; he'll be increasing the courage of the foe. But if with me he is desirous to seize hold upon this opportunity which has presented itself, very great bounties brimful of joyousness, will he, together with myself, be producing for his masters, both for the son and the father. So that, for life, they will be indebted to us both, bound by our services.

LIBANUS
apart . He's talking of persons being bound, I don't know who. I don't like it; I fear for us in common, lest he may have been cheating in some cheatery.

LEONIDA
to himself . I'm utterly undone, unless I find Libanus at once, wherever in the world he is.

LIBANUS
apart . This fellow's looking out for an accomplice, to unite with himself in a bad design. I don't like it: 'tis a portentous sign that instant, when a person trembles that sweats.

LEONIDA
to himself . But why, as I hasten, do I loiter here with my feet, and make myself so bounteous with my tongue? Why don't I bid it be quiet, that in its talkativeness is wearing out the day?

LIBANUS
apart . Upon my faith, an unfortunate man, to check his patroness; for if he has done anything roguishly, his tongue perjures itself in his behalf.

LEONIDA
to himself . I'll make haste, lest I should be providing a safe keeping for my spoil too late.

LIBANUS
apart . What spoil is this? I'll go meet him, and enquire what it is. *He accosts him.* I wish you health in as loud a voice as my strength admits of.

LEONIDA
Exerciser of the whip, health to you.

LIBANUS
Keeper of the gaol, how do you do?

LEONIDA
Ha! colonizer of the chains.

LIBANUS
Ha! delight of the scourges.

LEONIDA
When naked, how many pounds do you say you are in weight?

LIBANUS
Upon my faith, I don't know.

LEONIDA
I know that you don't know; but, i' faith, I who have weighed you do know. Tied up naked, you were a hundred pounds in weight, when you were hanging with your feet downwards.

LIBANUS
On what evidence is that?

LEONIDA
I'll tell you on what evidence, and in what way. When you are tied up with a full hundred pounds to your feet, when the manacles are fastened to your hands, and tied to the beam, you are weighing neither more nor less, than as being a worthless and good-for-nothing fellow.

LIBANUS
Woe be to you!

LEONIDA
That, Servitude bequeaths to you by her will.

LIBANUS
I wish this skirmishing of words to be cut short. What matter is this?

LEONIDA
Am I sure in trusting you?

LIBANUS
You may, without hesitation.

LEONIDA
If you wish to assist our master's son in his amour, there is so much of a good opportunity on a sudden, but still mingled with evil — all the hangman's days will be rendered famous by ourselves. Libanus, now have we occasion to find some boldness and inventiveness. An

exploit so great have I thought of just now, that we two may be pronounced the most deserving of all for torture to befall us.

LIBANUS
'Twas on that account I was wondering why my shoulder-blades were aching just now, which were beginning to prognosticate that there was some danger for them at home. Whatever it is, speak out.

LEONIDA
'Tis great booty with great risk.

LIBANUS
If indeed all persons by compact were to collect all the tortures, I have, I fancy, a back at home, so that I need not seek it out of doors.

LEONIDA
If you maintain such firmness of resolve, then we are all right.

LIBANUS
Why, if the matter were to be atoned for by my back, I could wish to seize the public money: I'll persist in my denial, and I'll endure all; in fine, I'll forswear myself.

LEONIDA
Ah! that's true valour, when occasion is, for one to endure misfortune with boldness. He that endures misfortune with boldness, that man afterwards enjoys good fortune.

LIBANUS
Why don't you tell the matter at once? I'm longing to tempt the scourge.

LEONIDA
breathing hard . Ask deliberately each particular then, that I may rest me. Don't you see that I'm still out of breath with running?

LIBANUS
Well, well, I'll wait your pleasure, even, in fact, till you die.

LEONIDA
Where's our master, pray?

LIBANUS
The old one is at the Forum, the young one is here in-doors.

LEONIDA
That's enough for me then.

LIBANUS
Is it then that you've become a rich man?

LEONIDA
Leave off your raillery.

LIBANUS
I'll have done; for my ears are in expectation of what you are bringing me.

LEONIDA
Give your attention, that equally with myself you may learn this.

LIBANUS
I'm silent, then.

LEONIDA
You oblige me. Don't you remember that our chamberlain sold some Arcadian asses to a dealer of Pella?

LIBANUS
I remember it; after that, what then?

LEONIDA
Well, he has sent some money here then to be paid to Saurea, for the asses; a young man has just now come who has brought this money.

LIBANUS
Where is this person?

LEONIDA
You think he ought to be devoured this instant, if you could see him.

LIBANUS
Aye, to be sure. But, however, you are speaking, I suppose, of those asses, aged and lame, whose hoofs were quite worn away to their very thighs?

LEONIDA
Those same ones, that carried the elm twigs hither from the country, for your use.

LIBANUS
I understand you; and the same ones carried you from here, bound, into the country.

LEONIDA
You say what's quite correct. But as I was sitting in the barber's shop, he began to make enquiries of me, whether I knew a certain Demænetus, the son of Strato. At once I said that I knew him, and that I was his servant; and I pointed out our house.

LIBANUS
After that, what then?

LEONIDA
He said that he was bringing the money for the asses to the chamberlain Saurea, twenty minæ in amount; but that he himself didn't know the individual, who he was, but that he knew Demænetus quite well. Since he spoke thus to this effect ——

LIBANUS
What then?

LEONIDA
Listen then, and you'll know. At once I made myself courteous, and a person of consequence. I said that I was the chamberlain. Thus, in these terms did he answer me: "Upon my faith, I don't know Saurea,

nor yet of what appearance he is. It isn't fair for you to blame me; but if you like, bring here Demænetus, your master, whom I do know; I'll not prevent you taking the money then." I said that I would bring him, and that I should be at home immediately. He's about to go to the baths, from there he'll afterwards come here. What plan do you think, now, I ought to adopt? Tell me.

LIBANUS
Why, I'm thinking of this, how to get between the money, and the stranger, and Saurea. At present this matter is rough-hewn; but if this stranger brings here the money first, then are we both at once shut out from it. But the old man to-day took me apart at a distance from the house, and threatened me and yourself that we should be tasters of the elm twigs, if Argyrippus didn't this very day get twenty mine of silver. He commanded that we should cheat either the chamberlain or his own wife, and said that he would give the aid he promised. Now, do you go to the Forum to our master, and tell him this, how we are going to manage; that you, from Leonida, are going to be the chamberlain Saurea, until the dealer has brought the money for the asses.

LEONIDA
I'll do as you request me.

LIBANUS
In the meantime, I'll amuse him here, if by chance he should come first.

LEONIDA
But what say you —— ?

LIBANUS
What do you want?

LEONIDA
If I give you a blow on the cheek with my fist, by-and-by, while I'm personating Saurea, don't you be offended.

LIBANUS
I' faith, but you'll have a care not to be touching me, if you are wise; you'll surely have changed your name to day with a bad omen.

LEONIDA
Prithee, do endure it with resolution.

LIBANUS
Do you endure the cuff that I, too, shall be giving you in return.

LEONIDA
I speak as it's in the habit of being done.

LIBANUS
I' faith, and I speak, too, of how I'm likely to act.

LEONIDA
Don't refuse me.

LIBANUS
Why I promise, I tell you, to give you a like return, just as you deserve.

LEONIDA
I'm off; I know that you'll put up with it by-and-by. But who's this? 'Tis he— 'tis the very man himself. I'll return here just now; in the meantime do you detain him here; I want to inform the old gentleman. *(Exit.)*

LIBANUS
Well, do your duty, then, and fly.

Enter the ASS-DEALER, with a BOY.

THE ASS-DEALER.
to himself . According as it was pointed out to me, this must be the house where Demænetus is said to live. *To the BOY.* Go, boy, and knock, and call Saurea the chamberlain out here, if he's in-doors. *The*

BOY goes to knock.

LIBANUS
Who's breaking in our door in this fashion? Enough there, I say, if you hear me at all.

THE ASS-DEALER.
No one has touched it as yet: are you out of your senses?

LIBANUS
Why I thought that you had touched it, because you were steering your course in that direction. I don't want the door, my fellow-slave, to be thumped by you; I really am attached to our house.

THE ASS-DEALER.
I' faith, there's no fear of the hinges being broken off the doors, if you answer all who make enquiries in this fashion.

LIBANUS
This door is of this habit; it cries out at once for tho porter, if it sees any door-kicker at a distance coming towards it. But what are you come for? What are you enquiring about?

THE ASS-DEALER.
I wanted Demænetus.

LIBANUS
If he were at home, I would tell you so.

THE ASS-DEALER.
Well, his chamberlain then?

LIBANUS
No more is ne at home.

THE ASS-DEALER.
Where is he?

LIBANUS
He said he was going to the barber's.

THE ASS-DEALER.
Hasn't he returned, since he went there?

LIBANUS
I' faith, he hasn't. What did you want?

THE ASS-DEALER.
He was to have received twenty mine of silver, if he had been in.

LIBANUS
What was it for?

ASS-D.
He sold some asses at market to a dealer from Pella.

LIBANUS
I understand; you are bringing it now. I think that he'll be here just now.

THE ASS-DEALER.
Of what appearance is your chamberlain Saurea? If it's he, I shall be able to know at once.

LIBANUS
Lantern-jawed, with reddish hair, a little pot-bellied, with glaring eyes, middling stature, sour aspect.

THE ASS-DEALER.
A painter couldn't have more correctly described his appearance —— And, i' faith, I see the very man; he's coming this way, wagging his head.

LIBANUS
Whoever gets in his way when he's in a passion, he'll be for striking him.

THE ASS-DEALER.
By my faith, if, indeed, he were coming filled with the threats and the courage of the grandson of Æacus, if he were to touch me in his wrath, in his wrath he would be getting a thrashing.

Enter LEONIDA, counterfeiting SAUREA.

LEONIDA
to himself . What's this to do here? Not a person bares a bit about my orders! How did I order Libanus to come to the barber's shop, and he didn't come at all. I' faith, for sure he hasn't consulted well for his back and his legs.

THE ASS-DEALER.
to himself . This is a very overbearing fellow.

LIBANUS
to the ASS-DEALER . Woe to me this day!

LEONIDA
I bid welcome to Libanus, the freed-man! Are you set at liberty now?

LIBANUS
I do implore you.

LEONIDA
In good sooth, to your great misfortune surely have you fallen in my way. Why didn't you come to the barber's shop, as I ordered you?

LIBANUS
pointing to the ASS-DEALER . This person detained me.

LEONIDA
I' faith, if in fact you were now to say that supreme Jove had detained you, and he were present to sue for you, you shouldn't escape the evil consequences. Whip-knave, did you disobey my orders? *Offers to strike him.*

LIBANUS
to the ASS-DEALER . Stranger, I'm done for.

THE ASS-DEALER.
Prithee, Saurea, for my sake, don't beat him.

LEONIDA
I wish, now, I had a whip in my hand ——

THE ASS-DEALER.
Prithee, do be appeased.

LEONIDA
— With which to lash your sides, which have grown callous with blows. *To the ASS-DEALER, who interposes.* Stand off this way; let me be the death of this fellow who is continually inflaming me with anger — a thief to whom I can never once enjoin a single thing, but that I must command the same things a hundred times, and din them in his ears. For that reason, now, by my troth, what with bawling and passion, I cannot endure the labour. Have you, you rascal, *pointing* ordered this dirt to be removed hence from the door? Have you ordered the labours of the spiders to be swept down from the pillars? Have you ordered those bosses on our door to be brought to brightness? It's of no use; I must walk about with a stick, as though I were a lame man. Because only for these single three days I have been giving my constant attendance at the Forum, in order to find some one who requires money upon interest, here, in the meantime, are you sleeping at home, and my master is living in a pigstye, not in a house. *He strikes LIBANUS.* There now, take you that.

LIBANUS
to the ASS-DEALER . Prithee, stranger, do take my part.

THE ASS-DEALER.
Saurea, for my sake, I entreat you, do let him go.

LEONIDA
Hark you! has any one paid for the carriage of that olive oil?

LIBANUS
He has paid.

LEONIDA
To whom was it given?

LIBANUS
To Stichus himself, your deputy.

LEONIDA
Tut! you're trying to mollify me. I know that he is my deputy, and that there isn't a servant in the house who is more valuable to his master than he is. But the wines that I sold yesterday to Exærambus, the wine merchant, has he yet paid Stichus for them?

LIBANUS
I think he has, in full; for I saw Exærambus himself bringing hither his banker.

LEONIDA
On such terms would I always deal; before, what I've trusted, I've hardly been paid within a year after. Now he's quite in a hurry; even of his own accord he brings him to the house, and writes a transfer of the money.

LEONIDA
Has Dromo paid down the wages agreed upon?

LIBANUS
Less than half, I think.

LEONIDA
What about the remainder?

LIBANUS
He said that he would pay it directly it was paid to him; for it was retained until he had finished the work that was agreed on to be done by him.

LEONIDA
The cups that I lent to Philodamus, has he brought them back?

LIBANUS
Not yet.

LEONIDA
What, not yet? If you wish to make a present, lend to a person that is a friend ——

THE ASS-DEALER.
aside . I' faith, I'm quite undone; he'll be just now driving me away with his ill-temper.

LIBANUS
in a low voice to LEONIDA . Hallo! you, enough now. Do you hear what he's saying?

LEONIDA
in the same way to LIBANUS . I hear, and I'll have done.

THE ASS-DEALER.
aside . At last, I think, he has done: now it's best to accost him before he commences again to prate. *To LEONIDA.* How soon, sir, will you give me your attention?

LEONIDA
Oh, by all means — have you been here any time? Troth, I didn't observe you; pray, don't lay it to my charge: anger has so blinded my eyesight.

THE ASS-DEALER.
'Tisn't to be wondered at. But if he's at home, I was wanting Demænetus.

LEONIDA
Libanus says that he isn't within. But still, if you like to pay that money over to me, I'll give you an acquittance that the account is

discharged as to that item.

THE ASS-DEALER.
This way rather, for me to pay you in the presence of your master, Demænetus.

LIBANUS
My master knows him, and he my master.

THE ASS-DEALER.
In his master's presence, I'll pay him.

LIBANUS
At my peril, so you only pay him, I'll engage the matter's safe. For if our old gentleman were to know that confidence wasn't placed in him, to whom he himself always entrusts the management of all matters, he would be angry.

LEONIDA
I don't much care; don't let him not pay it, if he don't like; so let him stand here.

LIBANUS
Give it him, I say. Oh dear, I'm sadly afraid that he'll be thinking that I've persuaded you not to trust him; prithee, do give it and don't be afraid. Upon my word, it will be safe.

THE ASS-DEALER.
I think it will be — so long, indeed, as I myself keep it in my hand. I'm a stranger; I don't know Saurea.

LIBANUS
Well, know him now then.

THE ASS-DEALER.
It may be he, it may not be he; i' faith, I know not; if it's he, why then it must be he. I know for sure that I shall give this up to no person that I don't know.

LEONIDA
aside . Troth now, may all the Gods confound the fellow. *Aloud to LIBANUS.* Take care you don't entreat him with a word. He's arrogant, because he's fingering my twenty minæ. No one will take it. *To the ASS-DEALER.* Take yourself off home, be off from here, and don't be troublesome.

THE ASS-DEALER.
You are in too angry mood: it isn't right for a person who is a slave to give himself airs.

LIBANUS
By my faith, to your own great misfortune now are you talking uncivilly to him. Dirty, worthless fellow, don't you see he's angry?

LEONIDA
to the ASS-DEALER . Be off then.

LIBANUS
to the ASS-DEALER . Scoundrelly fellow. *Aside to him.* Prithee, do give him the money lest he should abuse you.

THE ASS-DEALER.
On my word, you are seeking evil for yourselves.

LEONIDA
to LIBANUS . By the powers, your legs shall be broken, if you don't proclaim this shameless fellow.

LIBANUS
Troth, I'm undone. Be off, you shameless fellow.

LEONIDA
You rascal.

LIBANUS
to the ASS-DEALER . Won't you venture to assist me, you rascal?

LEONIDA
Do you persist in soliciting the scamp?

THE ASS-DEALER.
How's this? *To LEONIDA*. Do you, rascal, who are a slave, speak abusively to a free man?

LEONIDA
Give him a beating.

ASS-D.
By my faith, that surely shall befall yourself to get a beating as soon as ever I shall see Demænetus this day. I summon you to judgments.

LEONIDA
I shan't go.

ASS-D.
You won't go? Remember ——

LEONIDA
I do remember.

ASS-D.
I' faith, I'll have satisfaction out of your back.

LEONIDA
Woe unto you? What, villain — satisfaction to be given by us to you indeed?

THE ASS-DEALER.
Aye, and even this very day satisfaction shall be given me for your abusive language.

LEONIDA
How now, whip-knave? How say you, hang-dog? Do you suppose that we shall run away from our master? Go this instant then to our master, where you were citing us just now, and where you were

wishing to go.

THE ASS-DEALER.
What, now at last? Still, you shall never get a coin of money away from me, unless Demænetus shall order me to give it.

LEONIDA
Do so. Come, move on then. Are you to offer insults to another person, and are they not to be repeated to yourself? I'm a man as much as you are.

THE ASS-DEALER.
No doubt such is the fact.

LEONIDA
Follow me this way, then. With your good leave I would now say this: not a person has ever accused me by reason of my deserving it, nor is there in Athens one other individual, this day, whom they would think they could as safely trust.

THE ASS-DEALER.
Perhaps so: but still, you shall never this day persuade me to entrust to you, whom I don't know, this money A man to a man is a wolf, not a man, when the other doesn't know of what character he is.

LEONIDA
Now at last you are appeasing me: I was sure that this day you would give satisfaction to this poor head of mine; although I'm in mean garb, still, I'm well to do, nor can an estimate of my means be formed from it.

THE ASS-DEALER.
Perhaps so.

LEONIDA
Still more then I tell you: Periphanes, a merchant of Rhodes, a rich man, in the absence of my master, himself alone paid over to me, in private, a talent of silver, and trusted me, nor was he deceived in it.

THE ASS-DEALER.
Perhaps so.

LEONIDA
And you, too, yourself, as well, if you had enquired about me of other people, would, i' faith, I'm quite sure, have entrusted to me what you now have with you.

THE ASS-DEALER.
I don't deny it. *(Exeunt.)*

ACT III.

Enter CLEÆRETA and PHEILENIUM, from the house of the former.

CLEAERETA
And am I unable to render you obedient to my injunctions? Or are you so disposed as to be free from the control of your mother?

PHILENIUM
How could I propitiate Piety, if I could desire to please you, being endowed with these manners, after the fashion, mother, that you enjoin upon me?

CLEAERETA
Is it consistent with propriety for you to oppose my precepts?

PHILENIUM
How so?

CLEAERETA
Is this worshipping Piety, to lessen the authority of a mother?

PHILENIUM
Those who act right I blame not, nor do I love those who do wrong.

CLEAERETA
You are a very prating, lovesick girl.

PHILENIUM
Mother, that is my living. His tongue woos me, his person seeks me, his passion pleads, opportunity prompts.

CLEAERETA
I was purposing to convince you. Are you come as my accuser?

PHILENIUM
By my troth, I neither do accuse you, nor do I think it right I should do so; but I do complain of my lot, when I am separated from him

whom I love.

CLEAERETA
Will then one bit of the whole day's talk be left for myself?

PHILENIUM
Both my share of the speaking and your own do I give up to you. Do you yourself keep the signal both for speaking and for being silent. But, i' faith, if I only put up my oars in the boat-house while I'm resting, all the welfare of the household is at a standstill for you.

CLEAERETA
How say you, the out and out most insolent woman that ever I saw? How often have I forbidden you to speak to Argyrippus, the son of Demænetus, or to touch him, or to hold discourse with him, or to look at him? What has he ever given? What has he ordered to be brought to our house? Or do you fancy to yourself that smooth words are gold? — that clever speeches are as good as presents? Of your own accord you fell in love with him; of your own accord you go after him; of your own accord you request him to be sent for to you. Those who are givers, those same you laugh at; those who are cheating us, you are dying for. If any one promises you that he'll make you rich when his mother dies, ought you to be waiting for that? I' faith, a great risk impends over ourselves and the household, that we may die of hunger while we are awaiting her death. Now therefore, unless he brings me here twenty minæ of silver, upon my word, though profuse of his tears, he shall certainly be turned from here out of doors. This day's the end of excuses for poverty at my house.

PHILENIUM
If, my mother, you were to order me to go without victuals, I would submit.

CLEAERETA
I don't forbid you to love those who give that for the sake of which they ought to be loved.

PHILENIUM
What, mother, if this inclination of mine is fixed? What am I to do? Tell me.

CLEAERETA
Oh dear — look at my head, if, indeed, you consider your own interest.

PHILENIUM
Even the shepherd, mother, that feeds the sheep of another, has a certain one of his own to be the consoler of his hopes. For the sake of my affection, do allow me to love Argyrippus only, who is my choice.

CLEAERETA
Go in-doors, for, upon my word, there is really nothing more impudent than yourself.

PHILENIUM
Mother, you have given birth to a daughter obedient to your commands. *They go into the house.*

Enter LEONIDA and LIBANUS.

LEONIDA
Great praise and thanks we give deservedly to perfidy, when relying upon our tricks, our stratagems, and our devices, upon our confidence in our shoulder-blades and the hardihood resulting from the elm-twigs so oft applied, against the whips, the searing-irons, the crosses, and the fetters, the cords, the chains, the prisons, the stocks, the shackles, the collars, and taskmasters most cruel and well acquainted with our backs, who many a time before have imprinted scars upon our shoulder-blades; by conquering, now, these legions, troops and armies of thieves, by our prowess, through our perjuries, O brave, have we gained the victory. This, through the valour of this comrade of mine, and through my own courtesy, has been brought about.

LIBANUS

What man is there more firm than myself at enduring stripes?

LEONIDA
By the powers, you who can extol your exploits now, as I can do exploits, which in peace and in warfare you have so —— villanously performed; verily, in troth, many in number may they be now recounted according to your deserts; where you have defrauded him that trusted you, where you have proved faithless to your master, where knowingly and wilfully you have on solemn oath been perjured, where you have bored through party walls, where you have been detected in theft, where you have full oft pleaded your cause, as you hung up, against eight clever, hardened fellows, sturdy stripers.

LIBANUS
Certainly I do admit, Leonida, that it is true as you say. But verily, in troth, your many misdeeds, too, may be recounted as well and truly; where wilfully you have proved faithless to the trusting, where you have been detected in theft and scourged in public, where you have proved forsworn, where you have laid hands on sacred things, where to your masters you have full oft proved a loss, a trouble, and a disgrace, where you have stoutly denied that that was given to you which had been entrusted to you, where you have proved more faithful to your wench than to your friend, where through your hardihood you have frequently reduced to weariness eight sturdy lictors, armed with pliant twigs of elm. *To the AUDIENCE.* Is the compliment ill repaid in the way that I've praised my comrade?

LEONIDA
Just as befits both me and yourself, and our dispositions.

LIBANUS
Now drop this, and answer me this that I ask.

LEONIDA
Enquire of me what you please.

LIBANUS
Have you got the twenty silver minæ?

LEONIDA
Guess —— Upon my word, the old gentleman Demænetus, has been very obliging to us. How cleverly he pretended that I was Saurea. With the greatest difficulty did I withhold my laughter, when he rebuked the stranger, because in his absence he had been unwilling to put confidence in me; and with what readiness did he call me Saurea the chamberlain.

LIBANUS
Stop a moment.

LEONIDA
What's the matter?

LIBANUS
Isn't this Philenium that's coming from in-doors, and Argyrippus with her.

LEONIDA
Keep silence, 'tis he; let's listen quietly to them. In tears, she holds him, weeping, by the lappet of his garment; what, I wonder, am I to say is the matter?

LIBANUS
Let's listen in silence.

LEONIDA
Dear me, a thought, I' faith, has just come into my mind; I very much wish I had a long stick here.

LIBANUS
For what reason?

LEONIDA
With which to beat these asses, if perchance they should begin to bray out here, from within the bag. *They stand apart.*

Enter ARGYRIPPUS from the house of CLEÆRETA, followed by

PHILENIUM.

ARGYRIPPUS
Why are you holding me back?

PHILENIUM
Because, as I love you, I cannot bear your departing.

ARGYRIPPUS
Farewell.

PHILENIUM
I should fare somewhat better, if you were to remain here.

ARGYRIPPUS
Blessings on you.

PHILENIUM
Do you wish for blessings on me, to whom you are bringing disease by your departure?

ARGYRIPPUS
Your mother has bid me the last farewell; she has requested me to go home.

PHILENIUM
A bitter death will she cause her daughter, if I must part from you.

LIBANUS
apart, to LEONIDA . Troth now, the man has been turned out of doors there.

LEONIDA
apart . Such is the fact. ARG. Prithee, do let me go.

PHILENIUM
Whither are you going now? Why don’t you stay here?

ARGYRIPPUS

This night, if you choose, I'll stay.

LIBANUS
apart . Don't you hear him? How profuse he is of his attentions by night. But now, in the daytime, he's engaged; surely he's a Solon to write laws whereby the public may regulate itself. Psha! those who would be in readiness for themselves to pay obedience to his laws, would decidedly never do any good; they would be drinking night and day.

LEONIDA
. *apart* . Troth now, for sure, he wouldn't budge a foot from her if she would let him, who is now in such haste, and is threatening that he's going away from her.

LIBANUS
apart . Now make an end of your talk, that I may catch his discourse.

ARGYRIPPUS
Farewell!

PHILENIUM
Whither are you hastening?

ARGYRIPPUS
Kindly fare you well! I shall see you in the other world. For indeed now, so soon as I can, I shall sever myself from life.

PHILENIUM
Prithee, why, while I do not deserve it, do you wish to consign me to death?

ARGYRIPPUS
I — you? whom, if I were to hear that you were in want of life, at once would I present you my own life, and from my own would add to yours.

PHILENIUM

Why, then, do you threaten that you will quit life? For what do you suppose that I shall do, if you do that which you are talking of? I'm determined to do everything exactly the same to myself that you do to yourself.

ARGYRIPPUS
O! sweeter than honey are you to me.

PHILENIUM
And surely you are my life. Embrace me.

ARGYRIPPUS
I do so with pleasure. *They embrace.*

PHILENIUM
Would that thus we might be carried to the tomb.

LEONIDA
apart . O Libanus, how wretched is the man that loves.

LIBANUS
apart . Aye, but surely, faith, the man that's hanging up is much more wretched.

LEONIDA
apart . I know that, who have had experience of it. Let's go round them: let's accost them, one on the one side, one on the other. *One walks towards them from each side.*

LIBANUS
Health to you, master. But is this female, smoke, that you are embracing?

ARGYRIPPUS
Why so?

LIBANUS
Because your eyes are filled with tears; 'twas for that reason I asked.

ARGYRIPPUS
One who would have been a protector to you, you have lost.

LIBANUS
I' faith, I surely haven't lost one; for this reason, be cause I never had one.

LEONIDA
Health to you, Philenium.

PHILENIUM
What you desire, the Gods will give you.

LIBANUS
I could desire your favours, and a cask of wine, if wishes were to come to pass.

ARGYRIPPUS
Whip-knave, beware how you speak a word.

LIBANUS
Why, 'tis for you, not for myself, I wish it.

ARGYRIPPUS
For that reason, then, say on what you please.

LIBANUS
pointing to LEONIDA . Troth, I'd like to give him a beating.

LEONIDA
Who, pray, would allow you to do so, you frizzle- pated mountebank? Could you thrash me, you, who reckon as your daily food your own thrashings?

>ARG.
How far superior, Libanus, are your lots to my own, who never will live this day until the evening.

LIBANUS
For what reason, prithee?

ARGYRIPPUS
pointing to PHILENIUM . Because I'm in love with her, and she's in love with me, and nowhere have I anything to bestow upon her; for that reason has her mother expelled me with all my affection from her house. The twenty minæ of silver have brought me to my end, which the young man, Diabolus, declared that he would give her this day, in order that she mightn't send her anywhere, for this whole year, except to himself. Don't you see of what force are twenty minæ of silver, or what they can effect? The man who parts with them is happy; I, who part not with them, am undone.

LIBANUS
Has he already paid the money?

ARGYRIPPUS
He hasn't paid it.

LIBANUS
Be of good courage; don't be afraid.

LEONIDA
to LIBANUS . Step this way, Libanus, I want you.

LIBANUS
Certainly, if you want anything. *Steps aside, putting his hand on the shoulder of LEONIDA.*

ARGYRIPPUS
I entreat of you, is it more pleasant in this same matter for you to discourse hugging one another?

LIBANUS
Understand, master, that all things are not equally sweet to all persons. 'Tis pleasant for you lovers to converse, hugging one another; I care nothing for his hugging *pointing to LEONIDA* , and

pointing to PHILENIUM she despises mine. Do you then yourself do that which you would be suggesting to us to do.

ARGYRIPPUS
Indeed I will, and really with pleasure, i' faith. *Placing his arm round PHILENIUM'S neck.* In the meantime, if it seems good to you, do you step aside there.

LEONIDA
to LIBANUS . Should you like our master to be bantered a bit?

LIBANUS
He really is deserving of it.

LEONIDA
Should you like me, in his presence, to make Philenium embrace me?

LIBANUS
I' faith, I should like it.

LEONIDA
Follow me this way *They join ARGYRIPPUS.*

ARGYRIPPUS
Is there any escape at all? Have you conversed enough?

LEONIDA
Listen, and give attention, and devour my words. First of all, that we are your slaves, we don't deny; but if twenty silver minæ are forthcoming for you, by what name will you call us?

ARGYRIPPUS
Freed-men.

LEONIDA
And not patrons?

ARGYRIPPUS
That in preference.

LEONIDA
produces the bag . Here are twenty minæ in this bag. These, if you like, I'll give you.

ARGYRIPPUS
May the Deities ever preserve you, protector of your master, honor to the people, treasury of resources, preserver of my inner man, and commander of love; place it here, put down that bag, here on the spot, at once.

LEONIDA
I don't like you, who are my master, to carry this load.

ARGYRIPPUS
Still, do you rid yourself of the trouble, and fasten that bag to myself.

LEONIDA
I'll carry it, porter-like; you, as befits my master, go, without any burden, before me.

ARGYRIPPUS
How now? Why's this? Why don't you give up the bag here, for your master to feel its weight?

LEONIDA
Bid her to whom I'm about to give it, to beg and entreat it of me. For that's a dangerous spot where you bid me put it down at once.

PHILENIUM
to LEONIDA . Apple of my eye, my rose, my life, my delight, Leonida, do give me the money, and don't sever us lovers asunder.

LEONIDA
to PHILENIUM . Call me, then, your little sparrow, your chicken, your quail, your pet lamb: say that I'm your pet kid or your pet calf;

take me by the ears, press your lips to my lips.

ARGYRIPPUS
She, kiss you, you whip-scoundrel?

LEONIDA
Really, how unbecoming it does seem! But, by the powers, you shan't get it this day, if my knees are not embraced.

>ARG.
aside . Necessity compels to anything. *To LEONIDA.* Let them be embraced *kneels down and embraces his knees* : now give what I'm asking for.

PHILENIUM
Come, my Leonida, prithee do bring safety to your master thus in love. Redeem yourself from him by this service, and purchase him for yourself with this money.

LEONIDA
You are very pretty and amiable; and if this were mine, you should never this day ask me for it, but I would give it you: 'tis better for you to ask it of him *pointing to LIBANUS* , for 'twas he gave it me to keep for him. Approach him then prettily, my pretty one. *Delivers the bag to LIBANUS.* Take this, please, Libanus.

ARGYRIPPUS
Scoundrel, are you still trifling with me?

LEONIDA
I' faith, I should never have done so, if you hadn't embraced my knees so roughly. *Aside to LIBANUS.* Come, please, in your turn, do you at once have some sport with him, and give her an embrace.

LIBANUS
aside to LEONIDA . Hold your tongue; trust me for that.

ARGYRIPPUS

Why don't we accost him, Philenium? *pointing to LIBANUS* — really, a very worthy fellow, upon my faith, and not like this thief *pointing to LEONIDA* .

LIBANUS
aside to LEONIDA . We must walk up and down; now, in my turn, they'll be entreating me.

ARGYRIPPUS
By heaven, Libanus, I do entreat you, be pleased by your deeds to come to your master's rescue; do give me those twenty minæ: you see that thus in love I stand in need of them.

LIBANUS
It shall be seen to; I wish it done; return here at nightfall. Now bid her, ever so little, to beg and entreat them of me.

PHILENIUM
to LIBANUS . Do you wish me to begin with caressing, or with kissing you?

LIBANUS
Why, really, with them both.

PHILENIUM
And do you then, I do entreat you, prove the saving of us both.

ARGYRIPPUS
O Libanus, my patron, do give me that; 'tis more becoming for the freed-man, than for the patron, to be carrying a burden in the street.

PHILENIUM
My Libanus, golden apple of my eye, the gift and the very grace of love; there's a dear, whatever you wish, I'll do; prithee, do give us that money.

LIBANUS
Call me, then, your little duck, dove, or your puppet; your swallow,

jackdaw, little sparrow, your mannikin: make of me the reptile that crawls, so that I may have a double tongue; enfold me in your arms, and embrace my neck.

ARGYRIPPUS
She, embrace you, villain?

LIBANUS
Really, how undeserving I do seem. You shan't for no purpose have uttered a speech so unseemly against me. By my troth, if indeed you expect to get this money, this day you shall carry myself on your shoulders.

ARGYRIPPUS
What? I, carry you?

LIBANUS
Otherwise, you shan't get this money from me.

ARGYRIPPUS
Heavens, I'm undone! Still, if indeed it is decorous for the master to carry the servant, mount.

LIBANUS
In this way are proud people wont to be tamed. Stand still then, just as you were wont to do when formerly a boy. Do you understand what I say? *He prepares to get upon the shoulders of ARGYRIPPUS.* Aye — so — move on: I praise you much; not any horse is there more clever than yourself as a horse.

ARGYRIPPUS
while stooping . Get on, directly. LIB. I'll do so. *He gets on.* Hallo! — what's the matter? How are you going? By my troth, I'll deprive you of your barley then, if you don't amble, lifting up your feet.

ARGYRIPPUS
Prithee, Libanus, there's enough now.

LIBANUS
Never this day, by my troth, shall you get anything by entreaty. For now up hill with the spur will I push on my steed. After that, I'll deliver you to the millers, that there you may be tortured as you run. Stand still, that I may now at once get down for the hill, although you are but a bad one. *Gets off his shoulders.*

ARGYRIPPUS
Well now — since you've both made fun of me just as you liked, are you going to give the money?

LIBANUS
Why, yes, if, indeed, you erect to me a statue and an altar, and then sacrifice an ox to me here as though to a God; for I am the Divinity Salvation to you.

LEONIDA
Nay, but, master, do you betake yourself away from him, and do you come to me. And, what he has demanded for himself, will you erect a statue for me, and offer prayers to me?

ARGYRIPPUS
But what Divinity am I to call you?

LEONIDA
Fortune, and that the Propitious one.

ARGYRIPPUS
You are better than he then.

LIBANUS
Why, is there ever anything better for a man than Salvation?

ARGYRIPPUS
Though I praise Fortune, still, not to speak in dispraise of the Divinity Salvation ——

PHILENIUM

By the powers, but they are good, both of them.

ARGYRIPPUS
I shall know it, when they have conferred anything that's good.

LEONIDA
Wish for that which you desire to befall you.

ARGYRIPPUS
What if I do wish it?

LEONIDA
It shall come to pass.

ARGYRIPPUS
I wish for her to be devoted to me alone this whole year round.

LEONIDA
You have obtained it.

ARGYRIPPUS
Do you really say so?

LEONIDA
I do say so for certain.

LIBANUS
Come to me, in my turn, and make trial: wish ardently for that which you especially desire to happen to you; it shall be done.

ARGYRIPPUS
What other thing could I ardently wish for rather than that of which I am in want? Oblige me with twenty silver minæ to give to her mother.

LIBANUS
They shall be given: take care and be of good courage, your wishes shall be fulfilled.

ARGYRIPPUS
Just as they are wont, Salvation and Fortune are deceiving mortals.

LEONIDA
I this day have been the head in finding this money for you.

LIBANUS
I have been the foot.

ARGYRIPPUS
Why, neither head nor foot of your talking is visible; I can understand neither what you mean, nor why you are trifling with me.

LIBANUS
I think that now you've been teased enough; now let's disclose the matter as it really stands. Give your attention, Argyrippus, if you please. Your father has ordered us to bring this money to you.

ARGYRIPPUS
How very à propos and opportunely you have brought it.

LIBANUS
giving him the bag . Here, in this, there will be twenty good minæ, obtained by bad means: these, on certain conditions, he bade us give you.

ARGYRIPPUS
Prithee, what are they?

LIBANUS
That you would grant him her favours and an entertainment.

ARGYRIPPUS
Bid him come, I beg. For him who deserves it right well, we'll do what he wishes, him who has brought these scattered loves of ours to a happy result.

LEONIDA

You'll permit your father then, Argyrippus, to caress her?

ARGYRIPPUS
She, by being restored to me, will easily cause me to permit it. Prithee, Leonida, run, and beg my father to come here.

LIBANUS
He has been in the house some time.

ARGYRIPPUS
He hasn't come this way, at all events.

LIBANUS
pointing to the back way . He came round that way by the lane, through the garden, lest any one of his friends should see him coming here; he's afraid that his wife may come to know of it. If your mother knew about the money, how it was obtained ——

ARGYRIPPUS
Well, well — do use words of good omens; go in-doors quickly, farewell.

LEONIDA
And you two, love on. *He and LIBANUS go into the house of DEMÆNETUS; ARGYRIPPUS and PHILENIUM into that of CLEÆRETA.*

ACT IV.

Enter DIABOLUS and a PARASITE, with a scroll in his hand.

DIABOLUS
Come now, show me this agreement that you've written out between myself and the procuress. Read over the conditions; for you are a quite unique composer in such matters.

A PARASITE
I'll make the procuress be terrified when she hears the conditions.

DIABOLUS
Troth now, prithee, proceed and read them over to me.

A PARASITE
Are you attending?

DIABOLUS
I'm all attention.

A PARASITE
reads the agreement . "Diabolus, the son of Glaucus, has made a present to Cleæreta, the procuress, of twenty silver minæ, that Philenium may be with him night and day for this whole year."

DIABOLUS
Yes, and not with any other person.

A PARASITE
Am I to add that?

DIABOLUS
Add it, and take care and write it plainly and distinctly.

A PARASITE
writes it down, and then reads . "And not admit any other man whatever, because either her friend or her patron, she may choose to

call him — —”

DIABOLUS
Not any one!

A PARASITE
“Or because she may say that he is the lover of a female friend of hers. The door must be closed to all men except to yourself. On the door she must write that she is engaged. Or, because she may affirm that the letter has been brought from abroad, there is not to be even any letter in the house, nor so much as a waxed tablet; and if there is any useless picture, let her sell it; if she does not part with it, within four days from the time when she has received the money of you, let it be considered as your own; you to burn it if you like; so that she may have no wax, with which she may be able to make a letter. She is to invite no guest; you are to invite them. On no one of them is she to cast her eyes: if she looks upon any other person, she must be blind forthwith. Then she is to drink cup by cup equally with yourself. She is to receive it from you; she is to hand it to you for you to drink. She is not to have a relish for less or for more than yourself.”

DIABOLUS
That’s quite to my taste.

A PARASITE
reading . “She is to remove all causes of suspicion from her, nor is she to tread on any man’s foot with her foot; when she rises she is neither to step upon the next couch, nor when she gets down from the couch is she thence to extend her hand to any one; she is not to give to nor ask of any one a ring for her to look at; she is not to present dice to any man whatever except to yourself; when she throws them, she is not to say, You I call upon,’ she is to mention your name. She may call on any Goddess that she pleases as propitious to her, but on no God: if she should chance to be very full of devotion, she is to tell you, and you are to pray to him that he may be propitious. She is neither to nod at any man, wink, or make a sign. In fine, if the lamp

goes out, she is not to move a single joint of herself in the dark."

DIABOLUS
That's very good; so, in fact, she must do: but expunge that about the chamber; for my part, I prefer that she should move. I don't wish her to have an excuse, and to say that it is forbidden her by her vow.

A PARASITE
I understand, you fear some quibble.

DIABOLUS
Just so.

A PARASITE
Then as you bid me, I'll strike it out. *Erases it.*

DIABOLUS
And why not?

A PARASITE
Hear the rest.

DIABOLUS
Say on, I'm listening.

A PARASITE
goes on reading . "And she is not to use any shuffling words, nor is she to know how to speak in any tongue but the Attic. If perchance she should begin to cough, she is not to cough so as to expose her tongue to any one in coughing. But if she should pretend as though she had a running at the nose, even then she is not to do so; you yourself must wipe her lips rather than that she should open her mouth before another person. And her mother, the procuress, is not to come in in the middle of the wine, nor is she to utter a word of abuse to any one; if she does so speak, let this be her fine, to go for twenty days without wine."

DIABOLUS

You have written it nicely; a clever agreement.

A PARASITE
"Then, if she bids her maid-servant carry chaplets, garlands, or unguents, to Venus or to Cupid, your servant is to watch whether she gives them to Venus or to a man. If perchance she should say she wishes to keep herself in purity, let her account for as many nights as she has kept herself in purity. These are no trifles; for they are no funeral dirge."

DIABOLUS
The conditions please me entirely; follow me indoors.

A PARASITE
I follow. *(They go into the house of CLEÆRETA.)* ...

Enter DIABOLUS and the PARASITE.

DIABOLUS
Follow this way. Am I to put up with this, or shall I hold my tongue? I would rather die than not discover this to his wife. And say you so, old man? With a mistress would you be acting the part of a youngster? Would you be excusing yourself to your wife, and calling yourself an aged man? Would you be taking the mistress from her lover? And would you be presenting the money to the procuress, and be secretly pilfering it from your wife at home? You should hang me, rather than you should carry off these matters undiscovered. On my honor, I'll really go this instant hence to her whom I'm sure that you'll very soon be destroying, in order that you may be able to supply your extravagance, unless, indeed, she shall first prevent you.

A PARASITE
I'm of opinion that thus you must act. 'Tis more becoming that I should disclose this matter, rather than yourself, lest she may think that you, excited by reason of love, rather than for her own sake, have acted thus.

DIABOLUS

Why, faith, you say what's right. Do you then contrive to raise a storm and strife against him, that he, together with his own son, is carousing with one mistress the livelong day, and that he's secretly pilfering from her.

A PARASITE
Don't suggest to me. I'll take care of that.

DIABOLUS
But I'll wait for you at home. *Exit DIABOLUS; the PARASITE goes into the house of DEMÆNETUS.*

ACT V.

A Table, and everything requisite for an Entertainment, being placed before the house of CLEÆRETA, enter ARGYRIPPUS, DEMÆNETUS, and PHILENIUM, from the house of CLEÆRETA.

ARGYRIPPUS
Come then, father, let's take our places, please.

DEMAENETUS
As you bid me, my son, so it shall be.

ARGYRIPPUS
. *to the ATTENDANTS* . Lads, spread the table.

DEMAENETUS
Is it at all displeasing to you, son, if she takes her place by me? *They take their places.*

ARGYRIPPUS
Duty, father, keeps sorrow from my eyes; although I love her, still I can control my feelings, not to take it to heart because she takes her place by you.

DEMAENETUS
It becomes a young man to be respectful, Argyrippus.

ARGYRIPPUS
Troth, father, through proper regard for you, I can be so.

DEMAENETUS
Come, then, let's enjoy this banquet with wine and pleasant discourse. I don't wish to be feared, I prefer myself to be loved by you, my son.

ARGYRIPPUS
In truth, I do them both, as is proper for a son.

DEMAENETUS
I'd believe it, if I saw you were cheerful.

ARGYRIPPUS
Why, do you think that I'm sorrowful?

DEMAENETUS
Do I think so? You, whom I see as melancholy as if the day of trial had been named for you.

ARGYRIPPUS
Don't you say that.

DEMAENETUS
Don't you be so, then I'll not say so.

ARGYRIPPUS
Well then, look at me; I'm laughing. *He affects to laugh.*

DEMAENETUS
I'd like that those who wish me ill would laugh thus.

ARGYRIPPUS
I know, indeed, father, why you now suppose to yourself that I'm sad; it is because she is by you. And really, father, by my faith, to tell you the truth, that matter does hurt me; and not for this reason, that I don't desire for you that which you wish, but because I love her; another woman, indeed, I could easily endure to be by you.

DEMAENETUS
But I have a fancy for this one.

ARGYRIPPUS
Then you have what you desire; for myself, I wish for what I could desire.

DEMAENETUS
Submit to it this one day, since I've given you the power to be with

her for a year, and have procured for you the command of money in your amour.

ARGYRIPPUS
Well, by doing that, you have laid me under an obligation to you.

DEMAENETUS
Why then don't you show yourself cheerful to me? *They commence the banquet, PHILENIUM reclining below DEMÆNETUS.*

Enter ARTEMONA and the PARASITE, from the house of DEMÆNETUS, at the further side of the stage.

ARTEMONA
Prithee, do you say that my husband is carousing here, together with my son? — and that he has carried to his mistress twenty minæ of silver? — and that, with the knowledge of my son, his father is perpetrating this wickedness?

A PARASITE
Trust me in nothing henceforth, either divine or human, Artemona, if you find me untruthful in this matter.

ARTEMONA
Wretched then am I, who have supposed that, beyond others, my husband was sober, decent, chaste, and especially fond of his wife.

A PARASITE
But now, henceforth, understand that he, before all men, is a person of the smallest worth — a drunkard, a good-for-nothing fellow, unchaste, and a contemner of his own wife.

ARTEMONA
I' faith, if this wasn't true, he would never be doing the things that he is now doing.

A PARASITE
Upon my word, I too always hitherto took him to be a decent person;

but by this action he declares himself, — to be carousing, indeed, together with his son, and, a decrepit old man, toying with a mistress in his company.

ARTEMONA
For this it is, i' faith, that he's going out to dinner every day. He says that he's going to Archidemus, Chereas, Chærestratus, Clinius, Chremes, Cratinus, Dinias, Demosthenes: while he's thinking of debauchery, and public dens of infamy with his harlot.

A PARASITE
Why don't you bid your maid-servants carry him off home upon their shoulders?

ARTEMONA
Do you only be quiet. By my troth, I'll surely give him some trouble.

A PARASITE
I'm sure of it, that so it will befall him, so long, indeed, as you shall continue married to him.

ARTEMONA
I was fancying that this fellow was still giving attendance either in the senate or to his dependants: that for that reason it was, that, worn out with fatigue, he snored the whole night through. Wearied with his labours out of doors he comes home at night. Another's farm he ploughs, his own he leaves untilled. Both he himself is corrupted, and he corrupts his son as well.

A PARASITE
Do you only follow me this way, I'll make you just now to fall upon the man himself in the very fact.

ARTEMONA
By heaven, there's nothing that I could more wish for.

A PARASITE
Just stop there. *He moves stealthily forward, and examines the other*

side of the stage.

ARTEMONA
What's the matter?

A PARASITE
returning to her . If perchance you were to see your husband reclining, if you beheld him with a garland on, caressing a mistress, could you recognize him?

ARTEMONA
I' troth, I could.

A PARASITE
points to the other end of the stage . Then there's your man.

ARTEMONA
moving stealthily forward with the PARASITE . I'm undone.

A PARASITE
Stay a little. Let's observe in private, from ambush, what business they are about.

ARGYRIPPUS
What end will you put to your caresses, father?

DEMAENETUS
I confess, my son ——

ARGYRIPPUS
What do you confess?

DEMAENETUS
That I'm utterly undone with love for her.

A PARASITE
to ARTEMONA . Do you hear what he says?

ARTEMONA

I hear.

DEMAENETUS
to PHILENIUM . Ought I not to filch the mantle from my wife at home, which she is so fond of, and bring it to you? Though my wife's life should last a whole year in consequence, by my troth I could not be dissuaded from doing so.

A PARASITE
to ARTEMONA . Do you suppose that he has been accustomed to frequent a brothel to-day for the first time?

ARTEMONA
Upon my faith, it was he that was pilfering me; whereas I was suspecting my maid-servants, and was tormenting the wretched creatures who were innocent all the while.

ARGYRIPPUS
Father, bid him pour out some wine; 'tis a long time since I drank first.

DEMAENETUS
to the SERVANT . Begin, boy, from the top. *To PHILENIUM* . Come, do you meanwhile from below give me a kiss. *Kisses her.*

ARTEMONA
to the PARASITE . Wretch that I am, I'm undone! How the villain, the garnishing of a bier, is kissing away.

DEMAENETUS
A breath, by my faith, somewhat sweeter than that of my wife.

PHILENIUM
Tell me, there's a dear, does the breath of your wife smell bad?

DEMAENETUS
I'd prefer to drink bilge-water, if it were necessary, rather than kiss her.

ARTEMONA
apart . By heavens, you are a wretch. PAR. *apart* . I' faith, he's deserving so to be.

ARGYRIPPUS
How say you, father? *Takes a draught in the meanwhile.*

ARTEMONA
apart . Aye, pray, how say you? By my troth, to your own great detriment, you've surely said that against me. Never mind; only de you come home, I'll let you know what danger there is in speaking abusively against a wife with a dowry.

ARGYRIPPUS
Don't you love my mother?

DEMAENETUS
Who — I? I love her just now, because she isn't present.

ARGYRIPPUS
How, when she is present?

DEMAENETUS
Then, I wish she was dead.

A PARASITE
apart to ARTEMONA . This fellow is fond of you, according to what he says.

ARTEMONA
On my word, he's surely laying out all this at interest; for if, this day, he returns home, I'll especially have my revenge in kissing him.

ARGYRIPPUS
handing the dice-box . Father, throw the dice; that afterwards I may have a throw.

DEMAENETUS

By all means. You, Philenium, for myself, and death for my wife. *He throws.* 'Tis Venus's cast. Lads, clap your hands, and give me some honeyed wine in my cup, in honor of my throw.

ARTEMONA
apart . I can hold out no longer.

A PARASITE
apart . If you haven't learned the fulling trade, it's not to be wondered at; now it's quite fitting for you to beset his eyes. *They make their appearance before the revellers.*

ARTEMONA
By heavens, I will live, and you this day have made that invocation to your own great misfortune.

A PARASITE
Will some one run to fetch the undertakers?

ARGYRIPPUS
Health to you, mother.

ARTEMONA
Health indeed after this fashion!

A PARASITE
aside . Demænetus is dead. 'Tis time to betake myself hence: this battle bravely waxes hot. I'll be off to Diabolus. I'll tell him his orders are performed as he desired them; and in the meantime I'll persuade him that we should take a meal, while these people are squabbling. Afterwards, in fine, I'll bring him here to-morrow, to the procuress, that he may give her the twenty mince, that, in his turn, he in his passion may be enabled to obtain this damsel. I hope that Argyrippus will be able to be prevailed upon to allow him to pass each alternate night with him in her company; for, unless I obtain that, I've lost my patron; so great is the passion of the man by reason of his love. *He quietly withdraws.*

ARTEMONA
addressing PHILENIUM . What business have you to give a retreat here in your house to my husband?

PHILENIUM
Troth, he really will this day be the death of wretched me, through sheer disgust.

ARTEMONA
to DEM ÆNETUS . Rise, wencher, be off home.

DEMAENETUS
I'm undone.

ARTEMONA
Yes, you are; don't, i' faith, gainsay it, you most vile of all men. Why, the cuckoo's still on his nest. Rise, wencher, be off home.

DEMAENETUS
Woe to me!

ARTEMONA
You prophesy correctly. Rise, wencher, be off home.

DEMAENETUS
Step a little this way then.

ARTEMONA
Rise, wencher, be off home.

DEMAENETUS
Now, prithee, wife ——

ARTEMONA
Do you remember now that I'm your wife? It was but just now, when you were heaping abuse upon me, that I wasn't your wife.

DEMAENETUS

I'm utterly ruined.

ARTEMONA
Why, pray? Does the breath of your wife smell strong?

DEMAENETUS
It smells of myrrh.

ARTEMONA
Have you filched my mantle then to be giving to your harlot?

ARGYRIPPUS
By the powers — what, did he promise that he would filch your mantle?

ARTEMONA
Won't you hold your tongue?

ARGYRIPPUS
I was going to dissuade him, mother.

ARTEMONA
to ARGYRIPPUS . A pretty son! *To DEMÆNETUS.* Is it proper for a father to teach these morals to his children? Are you ashamed of nothing?

DEMAENETUS
I' faith, if there's nothing else, I'm ashamed of you, wife.

ARTEMONA
With your hoary head, your wife is dragging you, you cuckoo, from dens of infamy.

DEMAENETUS
The dinner's cooking; mayn't I stop, only to take my dinner?

ARTEMONA
Faith, you'll dine to-day on a heavy mishap, as you deserve.

DEMAENETUS
rising . I shall repose but uncomfortably; my wife is taking me home condemned.

ARGYRIPPUS
I told you, father, not to devise ill against my mother.

PHILENIUM
to DEMÆNETUS . Do remember about the mantle, there's a dear.

DEMAENETUS
calls out to CLEÆRETA . Won't you order her to go away from here?

PHILENIUM
No, I'll go in, in preference. *To ARGYRIPPUS.* Follow me this way, my life.

ARGYRIPPUS
Yes, I follow.

ARTEMONA
to DEMÆNETUS . Be off home.

PHILENIUM
to DEMÆNETUS . Do give me a kiss, at least, before you go.

DEMAENETUS
to PHILENIUM . Go hang yourself. *(Exeunt.)*

The COMEDIANS.
If this old fellow, unknown to his wife, has been in any way indulging his own inclinations, he has been doing nothing new or wonderful, or otherwise than others are in the habit of doing. No one is there of a disposition so severe, or of a temper so firm, but that he will enjoy himself when he has any opportunity. Now if you wish to interpose in behalf of this old man, so that he be not punished, we think that it can be brought about if you give us loud applause.

AULULARIA

Translated by Henry Thomas Riley

Aulularia, which has been translated as 'The Pot of Gold', revolves around a horde of gold that the miserly protagonist, Euclio, guards zealously. The play's ending has not survived, though there are indications of how the plot is resolved in later summaries and a few fragments of dialogue. The play opens with Lar Familiaris, the household deity of Euclio, an old man with a marriageable daughter named Phaedria, issuing a prologue about how he allowed Euclio to discover a pot of gold buried in his house. Euclio is then shown fanatically guarding his gold from real and imagined threats. Unknown to Euclio, Phaedria is pregnant by a young man named Lyconides. Phaedria is never seen on stage, though at a key point in the play the audience hears her painful cries in labour.

The figure of the miser had been a stock character of comedy for many years in Greece. Plautus does not spare his protagonist various embarrassments caused by the vice, but he is relatively gentle in his satire. Euclio is eventually portrayed as a good-hearted man that has been only temporarily affected by his cupidity.

The playwright's frequent theme of clever servants outwitting their supposed superiors is a recurring theme found throughout Plautus' works. Not only does Lyconides' slave manage to filch Euclio's beloved gold, but also Euclio's housemaid Staphyla is shown as intelligent and kind in her attitude toward the unfortunately pregnant Phaedria.

During the Renaissance there were a number of adaptations of the *Aulularia*. One of the earliest was Giovanni Battista Gelli's *La Sporta* (The Basket), which was published in Florence in 1543. A Croatian version by Marin Držić was titled *Skup* (The Miser, 1555) and set in Dubrovnik. In 1597 Ben Jonson adapted elements of the plot for his early comedy *The Case is Altered*. At about the same

time it was also used by the Danish Hieronymus Justesen Ranch (1539–1607) as the basis for his play *Karrig Nidding* (The Stingy Miser).

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THE SUBJECT

EUCLIO, a miserly old Athenian, has a daughter named Phædra, who has been ravished by a young man named Lyconides, but is ignorant from whom she has received that injury. Lyconides has an uncle named Megadorus, who being ignorant of these circumstances, determines to ask Phædra of her father, in marriage for himself. Euclio has discovered a pot of gold in his house which he watches with the greatest anxiety. In the meantime, Megadorus asks his daughter in marriage, and his proposal is accepted; and while preparations are making for the nuptials, Euclio conceals his treasure, first in on place and then in another. Strobilus, the servant of Lyconides, watches his movements, and, having discovered it, carries off the treasure. While Euclio is lamenting his loss, Lyconides accosts him, with the view of confessing the outrage he has committed on his daughter, and of announcing to him that his uncle, Megadorus, has cancelled his agreement to marry her, in favour of himself. Euclio at first thinks that he is come to confess the robbery of the treasure. After much parleying, his mistake is rectified, and the matter is explained; on which Lyconides forces Strobilus to confess the theft; and (although the rest of the Play In its original form is lost) we learn from the acrostic Argument that Strobilus gives up the treasure, and Lyconides marries the daughter of Euclio, and receives the gold for a marriage-portion. The Supplement written by Codrus Urcens to supply the place of what is lost has been added.

THE ACROSTIC ARGUMENT OF PRISCIAN.

A POT (Aulam) that he has found full of gold, Euclio watches with the greatest strictness (Vi), being distracted in a dreadful manner. Lyconides (Lyconides) debauches his daughter. Megadorus wishes (Vult) to marry her without a portion, and to do it in a cheerful way (Lubens), he provides cooks with provisions. Euclio is afraid on account of the gold (Auro); he drives them out of the house; and the whole matter (Re) having been seen, the servant of the ravisher steals it (Id). He discloses the matter to Euclio; by (Ab) him he is presented with the gold, a wife, and a son. THE PROLOGUE

THE HOUSEHOLD GOD

Lest any one should wonder who I am, I will tell you in a few words. I am the household God of this family, from whose house you have seen me coming forth. It is now many years that I have been occupying this houses and I inhabited it for the father and the grandfather of this person who now dwells here. But beseeching me, his grandfather entrusted to me a treasure of gold, unknown to all. He deposited it in the midst of the hearth, praying me that I would watch it for him. He, when he died, was of such an avaricious disposition, that he would never disclose it to his own son, and preferred rather to leave him in want than to show that treasure to that son. He left him no large quantity of land, on which to live with great laboriousness and in wretchedness. When he died who had entrusted that gold to me, I began to take notice whether his son would any how pay greater honor to me than his father had paid me. But he was in the habit of venerating me still less and less by very much, and gave me a still less share of devotion. So in return was it done by me; and he likewise ended his life. He left this person who now dwells here, his son, of the same disposition as his father and grandfather were. He has an only daughter; she is always every day making offerings to me, either with incense, or wine, or something or other; she presents me, too, with chaplets. Out of regard for her, I have caused this Euclio to find this treasure, in order that he might more readily give her in marriage if he should wish; for a young man of very high rank

has ravished her; this young man knows who it is that he has ravished; she knows him not, nor yet does her father know that she has been ravished. This day I shall cause the old gentleman here, our neighbour, to ask her as his wife; that will I do for this reason, that he may the more easily marry her who has ravished her. And this old gentleman who shall ask her as his wife, the same is the uncle of that young man who debauched her in the night time at the festival of Ceres. But this old fellow is now making an uproar in the house, as usual; he is thrusting the old woman out of doors, that she may not be privy to the secret. I suppose he wants to look at the gold, if it be not stolen.

ACT I.

Enter EUCLIO, driving out STAPHYLA.

EUCLIO
Get out, I say, be off, get out; by my troth, you must budge out of this house here, you pryabout woman, with your inquisitive eyes.

STAPHYLA
Pray why are you beating me, wretched creature that I am?

EUCLIO
That you may be wretched, and that, curst as you are. you may pass a curst life, well befitting you.

STAPHYLA
But for what reason have you now pushed me out of the house?

EUCLIO
Am I to be giving you a reason, you whole harvest of whips. Get away there from the door! There, do look, if you please, how she does creep along. But do you know how matters stand with you? If I just now take a stick or a whip in my hand, I'll quicken that tortoise pace for you.

STAPHYLA
O that the Gods would drive me to hang myself, rather indeed than that I should be a slave in your house on these terms!

EUCLIO
Hark how the hag is grumbling to herself! By my troth, you wretch, I'll knock out those eyes of yours, that you mayn't be able to watch me, what business I'm about. Get out *pushes her with his hands* - further yet! still further! further! There now, stand you there! By my faith, if you budge a finger's breadth, or a nail's width from that spot, or if you look back until I shall order you, i' faith, I'll give you up at once as a trainer for the gibbet. *Aside.* I know for sure that I did never

see one more accursed than this hag, and I'm sadly in fear of her, lest she should be cheating me unawares, or be scenting it out where the gold is concealed, a most vile wretch, who has eyes in the back of her head as well. Now I'll go and see whether the gold is just as I concealed it, that so troubles wretched me in very many ways. *He goes into his house.*

STAPHYLA
By heavens, I cannot now conceive what misfortune, or what insanity, I am to say has befallen my master; in such a way does he often, ten times in one day, in this fashion push wretched me out of the house. I' faith, I know not what craziness does possess this man; whole nights is he on the watch; then, too, all the day long does he sit for whole days together at home like a lame cobbler. Nor can I imagine now by what means to conceal the disgrace of my master's daughter, whose lying-in approaches near; and there isn't anything better for me, as I fancy, than to make one long capital letter of myself, when I've tied up my neck in a halter.

Enter EUCLIO, from his house.

EUCLIO
to himself . Now, with my mind at ease, at length I go out of my house, after I've seen that everything is safe in-doors. Now do you return at once into the house *to STAPHYLA* , and keep watch in-doors.

STAPHYLA
Keep watch in-doors upon nothing at all, forsooth! or is it, that no one may carry the house away. For here in our house there's nothing else for thieves to gain, so filled is it with emptiness and cobwebs.

EUCLIO
'Tis a wonder that, for your sake, Jupiter doesn't now make me a King Philip, or a Darius, you hag of hags. I choose those cobwebs to be watched for me. I am poor, I confess it — I put up with it. What the Gods send, I endure. Go in-doors, shut to the door, I shall be

there directly. Take you care not to let any strange person into the house.

STAPHYLA
What if any person asks for fire?

EUCLIO
I wish it to be put out, that there may be no cause for any one asking it of you. But if the fire shall be kept in, you yourself shall be forthwith extinguished. Then do you say that the water has run out, if any one asks for it.

STAPHYLA
The knife, the hatchet, the pestle and mortar, utensils that neighbours are always asking the loan of ——

EUCLIO
Say that thieves have come and carried them off. In fact, in my absence, I wish no one to be admitted into my house; and this, too, do I tell you beforehand, if Good Luck should come, don't you admit her.

STAPHYLA
I' faith, she takes good care, I think, not to be admitted; for though close at hand, she has never come to our house.

EUCLIO
Hold your tongue, and go in-doors.

STAPHYLA
I'll hold my tongue, and be off.

EUCLIO
Shut the door, please, with both bolts. I shall be there directly. *STAPHYLA goes into the house.* I'm tormented in my mind, because I must go away from my house I' faith, I go but very unwillingly; but I know full well what I'm about; for the person that is our master of our ward has given notice that he will distribute a didrachm of silver

to each man; if I relinquish that, and don't ask for it, at once I fancy that all will be suspecting that I've got gold at home; for it isn't very likely that a poor man would despise ever such a trifle, so as not to ask for his piece of money. For as it is, while I am carefully concealing it from all, lest they should know, all seem to know it, and all salute me more civilly than they formerly used to salute me; they come up to me, they stop, they shake hands; they ask me how I am, what I'm doing, what business I'm about. Now I'll go there whither I had set out; afterwards, I'll betake myself back again home as fast as ever I can.

ACT II.

Enter EUNOMIA and MEGADORUS, from their house.

EUNOMIA
I could wish you, brother, to think that I utter these words by reason of my own regard and your welfare, as is befitting your own sister to do. Although I'm not unaware that we women are accounted troublesome; for we are all of us deservedly considered very talkative, and, in fact, they say at the present day that not a single woman has been found dumb in any age. Still, brother, do you consider this one circumstance, that I am your nearest relation, and you in like manner are mine. How proper it is that I should counsel and advise you, and you me, as to what we may judge for the interest of each of us; and for it not to be kept concealed or kept silence upon through apprehension, but rather that I should make you my confidant, and you me in like manner. For that reason, now, have I brought you here apart out of doors, that I might here discourse with you upon your private concerns.

MEGADORUS
Best of women, give me your hand. *Takes her hand.*

EUNOMIA
looking about . Where is she? Who, pray, is this best of women?

MEGADORUS
Yourself.

EUNOMIA
Do you say so?

MEGADORUS
If you say no, I say no.

EUNOMIA
Indeed, it's right that the truth should be spoken; for the best of

women can nowhere be found; one is only worse than another, brother.

MEGADORUS
I think the same, and I'm determined never to contradict you on that point, sister. What do you wish?

EUNOMIA
Give me your attention, I beg of you.

MEGADORUS
'Tis at your service; use and command me, please, if you wish for aught.

EUNOMIA
A thing that I consider very greatly for your advantage I'm come to recommend you.

MEGADORUS
Sister, you are doing after your usual manner.

EUNOMIA
I wish it were done.

MEGADORUS
What is it, sister?

EUNOMIA
That you may enjoy everlasting blessings in being the father of children.

MEGADORUS
May the Gods so grant it.

EUNOMIA
I wish you to bring home a wife.

MEGADORUS

Ha! I'm undone.

EUNOMIA
How so?

MEGADORUS
Because, sister, your words are knocking out the brains of unfortunate me; you are speaking stones.

EUNOMIA
Well, well, do this that your sister requests you.

MEGADORUS
If she requests me, I will do it.

EUNOMIA
'Tis for your own interest.

MEGADORUS
Yes, for me to die before I marry. Let her who comes here to-morrow, be carried out of the house the day after, sister; on that condition, give me her whom you wish to give; get ready the nuptials.

EUNOMIA
I am able, brother, to provide you with a wife with a very large marriage-portion. But she's somewhat aged; she's of the middle-age of woman. If you request me, brother, to ask her for you, I'll ask her.

MEGADORUS
Would you like me to ask you a question?

EUNOMIA
Yes, if you like, ask it.

MEGADORUS
Suppose any old man, past mid-age, brings home a middle-aged wife, if by chance he should have a child by this old woman, do you

doubt at all but that the name of that child is Posthumus, all prepared? Now, sister, I'll remove and lessen this labour for you. I, by the merits of the Gods and of my forefathers, am rich enough; these high families, haughty pride, bountiful portions, acclamations, imperiousness, vehicles inlaid with ivory, superb mantles and purple, I can't abide, things that by their extravagance reduce men to slavery.

EUNOMIA
Tell me, pray, who is she whom you would like to take for a wife?

MEGADORUS
I'll tell you. Do you know that Euclio, the poor old man close by?

EUNOMIA
I know him; not a bad sort of man, i' faith.

MEGADORUS
I'd like his maiden daughter to be promised me in marriage. Don't make any words about it, sister; I know what you are going to say; that she's poor. This poor girl pleases me.

EUNOMIA
May the Gods prosper it.

MEGADORUS
I hope the same.

EUNOMIA
What do you want me now for? Do you wish for anything?

MEGADORUS
Farewell.

EUNOMIA
And you the same, brother. *Goes into the house.*

MEGADORUS
I'll go meet Euclio, if he's at home. But, see! the very person is

betaking himself home, whence, I know not.

Enter EUCLIO.

EUCLIO
to himself . My mind had a presentiment that I was going to no purpose when I left my house; and therefore I went unwillingly; for neither did any one of the wardsmen come, nor yet the master of the ward, who ought to have distributed the money. Now I'm making all haste to hasten home; for I myself am here, my mind's at home.

MEGADORUS
accosting him . May you be well, and ever fortunate, Euclio!

EUCLIO
May the Gods bless you, Megadorus!

MEGADORUS
How are you? Are you quite well, and as you wish?

EUCLIO
aside . It isn't for nothing when a rich man accosts a poor man courteously; now this fellow knows that I've got some gold; for that reason he salutes me more courteously.

MEGADORUS
Do you say that you are well?

EUCLIO
Troth, I'm not very well in the money line.

MEGADORUS
I' faith, if you've a contented mind, you have enough to passing a good life with.

EUCLIO
aside . By my faith, the old woman has made a discovery to him about the gold; 'tis clear it's all out. I'll cut off her tongue, and tear

out her eyes, when I get home.

MEGADORUS
Why are you talking to yourself?

EUCLIO
I'm lamenting my poverty; I've a grown-up girl without a portion, and one that can't be disposed of in marriage; nor have I the ability to marry her to anybody.

MEGADORUS
Hold your peace; be of good courage, Euclio: she shall be given in marriaye; you shall be assisted by myself. Say, if you have need of aught; command me.

EUCLIO
aside . Now is he aiming at my property, while he's making promises; he's gaping for my gold, that he may devour it; in the one hand he is carrying a stone. while he shows the bread in the other. I trust no person, who, rich himself, is exceedingly courteous to a poor man; when he extends his hand with a kind air, then is he loading you with some damage. I know these polypi, who, when they've touched a thing, hold it fast.

MEG.(
Give me your attention, Euclio, for a little time: I wish to address you in a few words, about a common concern of yours and mine.

EUCLIO
aside . Alas! woe is me! my gold has been grabbed from in-doors: now he's wishing for this thing, I'm sure, to come to a compromise with me; but I'll go look in my house. *He goes towards his door.*

MEGADORUS
Where are you going?

EUCLIO
I'll return to you directly, for there's something I must go and see to

at home. *He goes into his house.*

MEGADORUS
By my troth, I do believe that when I make mention of his daughter, for him to promise her to me, he'll suppose that he's being laughed at by me; nor is there out of the whole class of paupers one more beggarly than he. *EUCLIO returns from his house.*

EUCLIO
aside . The Gods do favour me; my property's all safe. If nothing's lost, it's safe. I was very dreadfully afraid, before I went in-doors! I was almost dead! *Aloud.* I'm come back to you, Megadorus, if you wish to say anything tome.

MEGADORUS
I return you thanks; I beg that as to what I shall enquire of you, you'll not hesitate to speak out boldly.

EUCLIO
So long, indeed, as you enquire nothing that I mayn't choose to speak out upon.

MEGADORUS
Tell me, of what sort of family do you consider me to be sprung?

EUCLIO
Of a good one.

MEGADORUS
What think you as to my character?

EUCLIO
'Tis a good one.

MEGADORUS
What of my conduct?

EUCLIO

Neither bad nor dishonest.

MEGADORUS
Do you know my years?

EUCLIO
I know that they are plentiful, just like your money.

MEGADORUS
I' faith, for sure I really did always take you to be a citizen without any evil guile, and now I think you so.

EUCLIO
aside . He smells the gold. *Aloud.* What do you want with me now?

MEGADORUS
Since you know me, and I know you, what sort of person you are — a thing, that may it bring a blessing on myself, and you and your daughter, I ask your daughter as my wife. Promise me that it shall be so.

EUCLIO
Heyday! Megadorus, you are doing a deed that's not becoming to your usual actions, in laughing at me, a poor man, and guiltless towards yourself and towards your family For neither in act, nor in words, have I ever deserved it of you, that you should do what you are now doing.

MEGADORUS
By my troth, I neither am come to laugh at you, nor am I laughing at you, nor do I think you deserving of it.

EUCLIO
Why then do you ask for my daughter for your self?

MEGADORUS
That through me it may be better for you, and through you and yours for me.

EUCLIO
This suggests itself to my mind, Megadorus, that you are a wealthy man, a man of rank; that I likewise am a person, the poorest of the poor; now, if I should give my daughter in marriage to you, it suggests itself to my mind that you are the ox, and that I am the ass; when I'm yoked to you, and when I'm not able to bear the burden equally with yourself, I, the ass, must lie down in the mire; you, the ox, would regard me no more than if I had never been born; and I should both find you unjust, and my own class would laugh at me; in neither direction should I have a fixed stall, if there should be any separation; the asses would tear me with their teeth, the oxen would butt at me with their horns. This is the great hazard, in my passing over from the asses to the oxen.

MEGADORUS
The nearer you can unite yourself in alliance with the virtuous, so much the better. Do you receive this proposal, listen to me, and promise her to me.

EUCLIO
But indeed there is no marriage-portion.

MEGADORUS
You are to give none; so long as she comes with good principles, she is sufficiently portioned.

EUCLIO
I say so for this reason, that you mayn't be supposing that I have found any treasures.

MEGADORUS
I know that; don't enlarge upon it. Promise her to me.

EUCLIO
So be it. *Starts and looks about.* But, O Jupiter, am I not utterly undone?

MEGADORUS

What's the matter with you?

EUCLIO
What was it sounded just now as though it were iron?

MEGADORUS
Here at my place, I ordered them to dig up the garden. *EUCLIO runs off into his house.* But where is this man? He's off, and he hasn't fully answered me; he treats me with contempt. Because he sees that I wish for his friendship, he acts after the manner of mankind. For if a wealthy person goes to ask a favour of a poorer one, the poor man is afraid to treat with him; through his apprehension he hurts his own interest. The same person, when this opportunity is lost, too late, then wishes for it.

EUCLIO
coming out of the house, addressing STAPHYLA within . By the powers, if I don't give you up to have your tongue cut out by the roots, I order and I authorize you to hand me over to any one you please to be incapacitated.

MEGADORUS
By my troth, Euclio, I perceive that you consider me a fit man for you to make sport of in my old age, for no deserts of my own.

EUCLIO
I' faith, Megadorus, I am not doing so, nor, should I desire it, had I the means.

MEGADORUS
How now? Do you then betroth your daughter to me?

EUCLIO
On those terms, and with that portion which I mentioned to you.

MEGADORUS
Do you promise her then?

EUCLIO
I do promise her.

MEGADORUS
May the Gods bestow their blessings on it.

EUCLIO
May the Gods so do. Take you care of this, and remember that we've agreed, that my daughter is not to bring you any portion.

MEGADORUS
I remember it.

EUCLIO
But I understand in what fashion you, of your class, are wont to equivocate; an agreement is no agreement, no agreement is an agreement, just as it pleases you.

MEGADORUS
I'll have no misunderstanding with you. But what reason is there why we shouldn't have the nuptials this day?

EUCLIO
Why, by my troth, there is very good reason for them.

MEGADORUS
I'll go, then, and prepare matters. Do you want me in any way?

EUCLIO
That shall be done. Fare you well.

MEGADORUS
going to the door of his house and calling out . Hallo! Strobilus, follow me quickly, in all haste, to the fleshmarket. *(Exit MEGADORUS.)*

EUCLIO
He has gone hence. Immortal Gods, I do beseech you! How powerful

is gold! I do believe, now, that he has had some intimation that I've got a treasure at home; he's gaping for that; for the sake of that has he persisted in this alliance.

EUCLIO, alone.

EUCLIO
going to the door of his house, he opens it, and calls to STAPHYLA within . Where are you who have now been blabbing to all my neighbours that I'm going to give a portion to my daughter? Hallo! Staphyla, I'm calling you! Don't you hear? Make haste in-doors there, and wash the vessels clean. I've promised my daughter in marriage; to-day I shall give her to be married to Megadorus here. *from the house.*

STAPHYLA
as she enters . May the Gods bestow their blessings on it! But, i' faith, it cannot be; 'tis too sudden.

EUCLIO
Hold your tongue, and be off. Take care that things are ready when I return home from the Forum, and shut the house up. I shall be here directly. *(Exit.)*

STAPHYLA
What now am I to do? Now is ruin near at hand for us, both for myself and my master's daughter; for her disgrace and her delivery are upon the very point of becoming known; that which even until now has been concealed and kept secret, cannot be so now. I'll go in-doors, that what my master ordered may be done when he comes. But, by my faith, I do fear that I shall have to drink of a mixture of bitterness! *(Exit.)*

Enter STROBIOUS, ANTHRAX, and CONGRIO, with MUSIC GIRLS and PERSONS carrying provisions.

STROBILUS
After my master had bought the provisions, and hired the cooks and

these music- girls in the market-place, he ordered me to divide these provisions into two parts.

LYCONIDES
By my troth, but you really shan't be dividing me, I tell you plainly. If you wish me to go anywhere whole, I'll do my best.

ANTHRAX
A very pretty and modest fellow, indeed. As if, when you are a conger by name, you wouldn't like to be cut into pieces.

LYCONIDES
But, Anthrax, I said that in another sense, and not in the one which you are pretending.

STROBILUS
Now my master's going to be married to-day.

ANTHRAX
Whose daughter is he to marry?

STROBILUS
The daughter of this Euclio, his near neighbour here. For that reason he has ordered half of these provisions here to be presented to him — one cook, and one music-girl likewise.

ANTHRAX
That is, you take one half to him, the other half home?

STROBILUS
'Tis just as you say.

ANTHRAX
How's that? Couldn't this old fellow provide from his own resources for the wedding of his daughter.

STROBILUS
Pshaw!

ANTHRAX
What's the matter?

STROBILUS
What's the matter, do you ask? A pumice stone isn't so dry as is this old fellow.

ANTHRAX
Do you really say that it is as you affirm?

STROBILUS
Do be judge yourself. Why, he's for ever crying out for aid from Gods and men, that his property has gone, and that he is ruined root and branch, if the smoke by chance escapes out of doors through the rafters of his house. Why, when he goes to sleep, he ties a bag beneath his gullet.

ANTHRAX
Why so?

STROBILUS
That when he sleeps, he may lose no breath.

ANTHRAX
And does he stop up the lower part of his windpipe as well, lest, perchance, he should lose any breath as he sleeps?

STROBILUS
In that 'tis as fair that you should credit me, as it is for me to credit you.

ANTHRAX
Why really, I do believe you.

STROBILUS
But, further, do you know how it is? I' faith, he grieves to throw away the water when he washes.

ANTHRAX
Do you think a great talent might be begged of this old fellow for him to give us, through which we might become free?

STROBILUS
By my troth, if you were to ask it, he would never let you have the loan of hunger. Why, the other day, the barber had cut his nails; he collected all the parings, and carried them off.

ANTHRAX
I' faith, you do describe a miserably stingy wretch.

LYCONIDES
But do you think that he does live so very stingily and wretchedly?

STROBILUS
A kite, the other day, carried off his morsel of food; the fellow went crying to the Prætor; there, weeping and lamenting, he began to request that he might be allowed to compel the kite to give bail. There are innumerable other things that I could mention, if I had the leisure. But which of you two is the sharper? Tell me.

LYCONIDES
I — as being much the better one.

STROBILUS
A cook I ask for, not a thief.

LYCONIDES
As a cook, I mean.

STROBILUS
to ANTHRAX . What do you say?

ANTHRAX
I'm just as you see me.

LYCONIDES

He's a nine-day cook; every ninth day he's in the habit of going out to cook.

ANTHRAX
You, you three-lettered fellow; do you abuse me, you thief?

LYCONIDES
To be sure I do, you trebly-distilled thief of thieves.

STROBILUS
Now do you hold your tongue for the present, and, that lamb, whichever is the fatter of the two ——

LYCONIDES
Very well.

STROBILUS
Do you, Congrio, take that, and go in-doors there *pointing to EUCLIO'S house* ; and *to a MUSIC-GIRL and some of the PEOPLE with provisions* do you follow him; the rest of you this way, to our house.

LYCONIDES
By my troth, you've made an unfair division; they've got the fattest lamb.

STROBILUS
But the fattest music-girl shall be given you then. Do you, therefore, go along with him, Phrygia. And do you, Eleusium, step in-doors here, to our house.

LYCONIDES
O you crafty Strobilus, have you pushed me off here upon this most miserly old fellow, where if I ask for anything, I may ask even to hoarseness before anything's found me?

STROBILUS
'Tis very foolish, and 'tis thanklessly done, to do a service to you,

when what you do goes for nothing.

LYCONIDES
But how so?

STROBILUS
Do you ask? In the first place then, there will be no confusion for you there in the house; if you want anything to use, bring it from your own home, don't lose your trouble in asking for it. But here, at our house, there's great confusion, and a large establishment — furniture, gold, garments, silver vessels. If anything's lost here (as I know that you can easily keep hands off — if nothing's in your way), they may say, "The cooks have stolen it; seize them, bind them, beat them, thrust them in the dungeon". Nothing of that sort will happen to you, inasmuch as there will be nothing for you to steal. Follow me this way.

LYCONIDES
I follow.

STROBILUS
knocking at the door of EUCLIO'S house . Ho, there Staphyla, come out and open the door.

STAPHYLA
from within . Who calls there? STRO. Strobilus.

Enter STAPHYLA.

STAPHYLA
What do you want?

STROBILUS
For you to take in these cooks, and this music-girl, and these provisions for the wedding. Megadorus bade me take these things to Euclio.

STAPHYLA

Are you about to make this wedding, Strobilus, in honor of Ceres?

STROBILUS
Why?

STAPHYLA
Because I don't see any wine brought.

STROBILUS
Why, that will be brought just now, when he himself comes back from the market.

STAPHYLA
There's no firewood here in our house.

LYCONIDES
There are the beams.

STAPHYLA
I' faith, there are.

LYCONIDES
There is wood, then; don't you be seeking it out of doors.

STAPHYLA
What, you unpurified fellow, although your business is with the fire, for the sake of a dinner, or of your own hire, do you request us to set our house on fire?

LYCONIDES
I don't ask you.

STROBILUS
Take them in-doors.

STAPHYLA
Follow me. *They follow her in-doors, and STROBILUS goes with the others into the house of MEGADORUS.*

Enter PYTHODICUS, from the house of MEGADORUS.

PYTHODICUS
Mind you your business; I'll step in and see what the cooks are doing, to observe whom, i' faith, to-day it is a most laborious task. Unless I manage this one thing, for them to cook the dinner down in the dungeon; thence, when cooked, we might bring it up again in small baskets. But if they should eat below whatever they should cook, those above would go without their dinner, and those below have dined. But here am I chattering, as though I had no business, when there's such a pack of thieves in the house. *Goes into the house.*

Enter EUCLIO, with some chaplets of flowers in his hand.

EUCLIO
I wished at length to screw up my courage to-day, so as to enjoy myself at the wedding of my daughter. I come to the market, I enquire about fish; they tell me that it is dear, that lamb is dear, beef is dear, veal, large fish, and pork, all of them are dear. And for this reason were they still dearer; I hadn't the money. I came away thence in a rage, since I had nothing wherewithal to make a purchase; and thus did I baulk all those rascals. Then I began to think with myself upon the road, "If you are guilty of any extravagance on a festive day, you may be wanting on a common day, unless you are saving." After I disclosed this reasoning to my heart and appetite, my mind came over to my opinion, that I ought to give my daughter in marriage at as little expense as possible. Now I've bought a bit of frankincense, and these chaplets of flowers; these shall be placed upon the hearth for our household God, that he may grant a propitious marriage to my daughter. But what do I —— ? Do I behold my house open? There's a noise, too, within; is it that I'm robbed, wretch that I am?

LYCONIDES
speaking within the house . Seek of the neighbours a bigger pot if you can; this one's too little, it can't hold it.

EUCLIO
Woe to me! By my faith, I'm a dead man; the gold's being carried off — my pot's being looked for. I am certainly murdered, unless I make haste to run with all haste in-doors here! Apollo, prithee do assist and help me, whom thou hast already, before this, helped in such circumstances. Pierce with thine arrows the plunderers of my treasures. But am I delaying to run, before I perish outright. *He runs into his house.*

Enter ANTHRAX, from the house of MEGADORUS.

ANTHRAX
speaking to some within . Dromo, do you scale the fish. Do you, Machærio, have the conger and the lamprey boned. I'm going to ask the loan of a baking-pan of our neighbour Congrio. You, if you are wise, will have that capon more smoothly picked for me than is a plucked play-actor. But what's this clamour that's arising here hard by? By my faith, the cooks, I do believe, are at their usual pranks. I'll run in-doors, lest there may be any disturbance here for me as well. *Retreats into the house of MEGADORUS.*

ACT III.

Enter CONGRIO, in haste, from the house of EUCLIO.

LYCONIDES
roaring out . Beloved fellow-citizens, fellow- countrymen, inhabitants, neighbours, and all strangers, do make way for me to escape! Make all the streets clear! Never have I at any time, until this day, come to Bacchants, in a Bacchanalian den, to cook; so sadly have they mauled wretched me and my scullions with their sticks. I'm aching all over, and am utterly done for; that old fellow has so made a bruising school of me; and in such a fashion has he turned us all out of the house, myself and them, laden with sticks. Nowhere, in all the world, have I ever seen wood dealt out more plentifully. Alackaday! by my faith, to my misery, I'm done for; the Bacchanalian den is opening, here he comes. He's following us. I know the thing I'll do: that the master himself has taught me.

Enter EUCLIO, from his house, driving the COOKS and the MUSIC GIRL before him.

EUCLIO
(calling out, while CONGRIO and the others are running off) Come back! Where are you running to, now? Hold you!

LYCONIDES
Why are you crying out, you stupid?

EUCLIO
Because this instant I shall give your name to the Triumvirs.

LYCONIDES
Why?

EUCLIO
Because you've got a knife.

LYCONIDES
’Tis the proper thing for a cook.

EUCLIO
Why did you threaten me?

LYCONIDES
I think that it was badly managed, that I didn’t pierce your side with it.

EUCLIO
There’s not a person that’s living this day a greater rascal than you, nor one to whom designedly I would with greater pleasure cause a mischief.

LYCONIDES
I’ faith, though you should hold your noise, really that’s quite clear; the thing itself is its own witness. As it is, I’m made softer by far with your sticks than any ballet-dancer. But what right have you to touch us, you beggarman? What’s the matter?

EUCLIO
Do you even ask me? Is it that I’ve done less than I ought to have done? Only let me —— *Is going to strike him.*

LYCONIDES
Now, by my faith, at your great peril, if this head should feel it!

EUCLIO
Troth, I don’t know what may happen hereafter; your head feels it just now! But what business, pray, had you in my house, in my absence, unless I had ordered you? I want to know that.

LYCONIDES
Hold your noise, then; because we came to cook for the wedding.

EUCLIO
Why the plague do you trouble yourself whether I eat meat raw or

cooked, unless you are my tutor.

LYCONIDES
I want to know if you will allow or not allow us to cook the dinner here?

EUCLIO
I, too, want to know whether my property will be safe in my house.

LYCONIDES
I only wish to carry the things away safe that I brought here! I don't care for yours; should I be coveting your things?

EUCLIO
I understand; don't teach me; I know.

LYCONIDES
What is it, on account of which you now hinder us from cooking the dinner here? What have we done? What have we said to you otherwise than you could wish?

EUCLIO
Do you even ask me, you rascally fellow? You who've been making a thoroughfare of every corner of my house, and the places under lock and key? If you had stopped by the fireside, where it was your business, you wouldn't have had your head broken. It has been done for you deservedly! Therefore that you may now know my determination; if you come nearer to the door here, unless I order you, I'll make you to be the most wretched of creatures. Do you now know my determination? *He goes into his house.*

LYCONIDES
Where are you going? Come you back again! So may Laverna love me well, I'll expose you at once with loud abuse here before the house, if you don't order my utensils to be restored to me! What shall I do now? Verily, by my faith, I came here with unlucky auspices; I was hired for a didrachm; I stand in more need now of a surgeon than of wages.

Enter EUCLIO, from his house, with the pot of money under his cloak.

EUCLIO
to himself, as he enters . This, by my faith, wherever I shall go, really shall be with me, and with myself will I carry it, nor will I ever again entrust it to that place, for it to be in such great peril. *Speaking to CONGRIO and his SCULLIONS.* Now, then, go you all of you in the house, cooks and music-girls; introduce even, if you like, a whole company of hirelings; cook, bustle, and hurry now at once just as much as you please.

LYCONIDES
O dear, I'm a ruined man.

EUCLIO
Be off! your labour was hired here, not your talk.

LYCONIDES
Harkye, old gentleman, for the beating, by my faith, I shall demand of you a recompense. I was hired a while ago to cook, and not to be basted.

EUCLIO
Proceed against me at law! Don't be troublesome! Either cook the dinner, or away with you from the house to downright perdition!

LYCONIDES
Go there yourself then. *CONGRIO and the COOKS and MUSIC-GIRL go back into the house.*

EUCLIO, alone.

EUCLIO
He's gone. Immortal Gods! A poor man, who begins to have dealings or business with an opulent one, commences upon a rash undertaking! Thus, for instance, Megadorus who has pretended that, for the sake of honoring me, he sends these cooks hither, is plaguing

unfortunate me in every way; for this reason has he sent them, that they might purloin this *putting his hand on the pot* from unfortunate me. Just as I might expect, even my dunghill-cock in-doors, that was bought with the old woman's savings, had well nigh been the ruin of me; where this was buried, he began to scratch there all round about with his claws. What need of more words? So exasperated were my feelings, I took a stick, and knocked off the head of the cock — a thief caught in the act. I' faith, I do believe that the cooks had promised a reward to the cock, if he should discover it; I took the opportunity out of their hands, however. What need of many words? I had a regular battle with the dunghill- cock. But see, my neighbour Megadorus is coming from the Forum. I can't, then, venture to pass by him, but I must stop and speak to him. *He retires close to his door.*

Enter MEGADORUS, at a distance.

MEGADORUS
to himself . I've communicated to many friends my design about this proposal; they speak in high terms of the daughter of Euclio. They say that it was discreetly done, and with great prudence. But, in my opinion, indeed, if the other richer men were to do the same, so as to take home as their wives, without dower, the daughters of the poorer persons, both the state would become much more united, and we should meet with less ill feeling than we now meet with; both, they, the wives, would stand in fear of punishment more than they do stand in fear of it, and we husbands should be at less expense than we now are. In the greater part of the people this is a most just way of thinking; in the smaller portion there is an objection among the avaricious, whose avaricious minds and insatiate dispositions there is neither law nor magistrate to be able to put a check upon. But a person may say this; "How are these rich women with portions to marry, if this law is laid down for the poor?" Let them marry whom they please, so long as the dowry isn't their companion. If this were so done, the women would acquire for themselves better manners for them to bring, in place of dowry, than they now bring. I'd make mules, which exceed horses in price, to become cheaper than Gallic

geldings.

EUCLIO
aside . So may the Gods favour me, I listen to him with delight; very shrewdly has he discoursed on the side of economy.

MEGADORUS
to himself . No wife should then be saying: “Indeed, I brought you a marriage-portion far greater than was your own wealth; why, it really is fair that purple and gold should be found for me, maid-servants, mules, muleteers, and lacqueys, pages to carry compliments, vehicles in which I may be carried.”

EUCLIO
aside . How thoroughly he does understand the doings of the wives! I wish he were made Prefect of the manners of the women.

MEGADORUS
to himself . Now, go where you will, you may see more carriages among the houses than in the country when you go to a farm-house. But this is even light, in comparison with when they ask for their allowance; there stands the scourer, the embroiderer, the goldsmith, the woollen-manufacturer, retail dealers in figured skirts, dealers in women’s under-clothing, dyers in flame-colour, dyers in violet, dyers in wax- colour, or else sleeve-makers, or perfumers; wholesale linendrapers, shoemakers, squatting cobblers, slipper-makers; sandasmakers stand there; stainers in mallow colour stand there; hairdressersmake their demands, botchers their demands; boddice-makers stand there; makers of kirtles take their stand. Now you would think them got rid of; these make way, others make their demands; three hundred duns are standing in your hall; weavers, lace-makers, cabinet-makers, are introduced; the money’s paid them. You would think them got rid of by this; when dyers in saffroncolours come sneaking along; or else there’s always some horrid plague or other which is demanding something.

EUCLIO

aside . I would accost him, if I didn't fear that he would cease to descant upon the ways of women; for the present I'll leave him as he is.

MEGADORUS
When the money has been paid to all the nicknackmongers, for these saffron-coloured garments and stomachers, your wife's expenses, then at the last comes the tax-gatherer and asks for money. You go, your account is being made up with your banker; the tax-gatherer waits, half-starved, and thinks the money will be paid. When the account has been made up with the banker, even already is the husband himself in debt to the banker, and the hopes of the tax-gatlherer are postponed to another day. These, and many others, are the inconveniences and intolerable expenses of great portions; but she who is without portion is in the power of her husband; the portioned ones overwhelm their husbands with loss and ruin. But see; here's my connexion by marriage before the house! How do you do, Euclio?

EUCLIO
With very great pleasure have I listened to your discourse.

MEGADORUS
Did you hear me?

EUCLIO
Everything from the very beginning.

MEGADORUS
eyeing him from head to foot . Still, in my way of thinking indeed, you would be acting a little more becomingly if you were more tidy at the wedding of your daughter.

EUCLIO
Those who have display according to their circumstances and splendour according to their means, remember themselves, from whence they are sprung; neither by myself, Megadorus, nor by any poor man, are better circumstances enjoyed than appearances

warrant.

MEGADORUS
Surely they are; and may the Gods, I hope, make them so to be, and more and more may they prosper that which you now possess.

EUCLIO
aside . That expression don't please me, "which you now possess." He knows that I've got this, as well as I do myself: the old woman has discovered it to him.

MEGADORUS
Why do you separate yourself thus alone, apart from the Senate?

EUCLIO
Troth, I was considering whether I should accuse you deservedly.

MEGADORUS
What's the matter?

EUCLIO
Do you ask me what's the matter? You who have filled every corner in my house, for wretched me, with thieves? You who have introduced into my dwelling five hundred cooks, with six hands a-piece, of the race of Geryon, whom were Argus to watch, who was eyes all over, that Juno once set as a spy upon Jupiter, he never could watch them; a music-girl besides, who could alone drink up for me the Corinthian fountain of Pirene, if it were flowing with wine? And then as to provisions ——

MEGADORUS
Troth, there's enough for a procurer even. I sent as much as a lamb.

EUCLIO
Than which lamb, I, indeed, know right well that there is nowhere a more curious beast existing.

MEGADORUS

I wish to know of you why is this lamb curious?

EUCLIO
Because it's all skin and bone, so lean is it with care; why, even when alive, by the light of the sun you may look at its entrails; it's just as transparent as a Punic lantern.

MEGADORUS
I bought it to be killed.

EUCLIO
Then it's best that you likewise should bargain for it to be carried out for burial; for I believe it's dead by this time.

MEGADORUS
Euclio, I wish this day to have a drinking with you.

EUCLIO
By my troth, I really must not drink.

MEGADORUS
But I'll order one cask of old wine to be brought from my house.

EUCLIO
I' faith, I won't have it; for I've determined to drink water.

MEGADORUS
I'll have you well drenched this day, if I live, you who have determined to drink water.

EUCLIO
aside . I know what plan he's upon; he's aiming at this method, to overcome me with wine, and after that, to change the settlement of what I possess: I'll take care of that, for I'll hide it somewhere out of doors. I'll make him lose his wine and his trouble together.

MEGADORUS
Unless you want me for anything, I'm going to bathe, that I may

sacrifice. *He goes into his house.*

EUCLIO
By my faith, you pot *taking it from under his cloak* , you surely have many enemies, and that gold as well which is entrusted to you! Now this is the best thing to be done by me, to take you away, my pot, to the Temple of Faith, where I'll hide you carefully. Faith, thou dost know me, and I thee; please, do have a care not to change thy name against me, if I entrust this to thee. Faith, I'll come to thee, relying on thy fidelity. *He goes into the Temple of faith.*

ACT IV.

Enter STROBILUS .

STROBILUS
This is the duty of a good servant, to do what I'm intending, not to consider the commands of his master a bore or trouble to him. For that servant who resolves to serve his master with hearty goodwill, him it behoves to act expeditiously for his master, slowly for himself; but if he sleeps, let him so sleep as to bethink himself that he is a servant. But he who lives in servitude to one in love, as I am serving, if he sees love overcoming his master, this I think to be the duty of the servant; to restrain him for his safety, not to impel him onwards towards his own inclination. Just as a float of bulrushes is placed beneath boys who are learning to swim, by means of which they may labour less, so as to swim more easily and move their hands; in the same way do I consider that it is proper for the servant to be a buoy to his master thus in love, so as to bear him up lest he should go to the bottom; and so * * * * should he learn the will of his master, that his eyes should know what his mouth chooses not to speak. What he orders, he should hasten to perform more swiftly than the swift steeds. He who shall have a care for these things, will escape the castigation of the ox's hide, nor by his own means will he ever bring the fetters to brightness. Now, my master's in love with the daughter of this poor man, Euclio; word has just now been brought to my master that she is given to Megadorus here: he has sent me here to spy out, that he may be made acquainted with the things that are going on. Now, without any suspicion, I'll sit here by the sacred altar. From this spot I shall be able, in this direction and that, to witness what they are about. *He sits by the altar, and on seeing EUCLIO, hides behind it.*

Enter EUCLIO, from the Temple

EUCLIO
O Goddess Faith, do thou but take care not to discover to any person

that my gold is there. I have no fear that any one will find it, so well is it concealed in its hiding place. By my troth, he will surely have a charming booty there, if any one shall meet with that pot loaded with gold. But I entreat thee, Faith, to hinder that. Now I shall go wash me, that I may perform the sacrifice; so that I may not delay my new connexion by marriage, but that, when he sends to me, he may forthwith take my daughter home. Over and over again now, Goddess Faith, do thou take care that I shall carry away the pot safe from thy Temple. To thy fidelity have I entrusted the gold; in thy grove and Temple is it placed. *Goes into his house.*

STROBILUS
coming from behind the altar . Immortal Gods, what a deed did I hear this person speaking of, how that he had hidden here, in the Temple of Faith, a pot filled with gold; prithee, beware you, how you are more faithful to him than to myself! And he, as I fancy, is the father of her whom my master's in love with. I'll go hence into it; I'll thoroughly ransack the Temple, to see if I can anywhere find the gold, while he's engaged. But if I do find it, O Goddess Faith, I'll offer to thee a gallon jug full of honeyed wine, that I'll surely offer to thee; but I'll drink it up myself, when I have offered it. *Retreats behind the altar.*

Enter EUCLIO, from his house.

EUCLIO
to himself . It wasn't for nothing that the raven was just now croaking on my left hand; he was both scratching the ground with his feet and croaking with his voice. At once my heart began to jump about, and to leap within my breast. But why do I delay to run?

EUCLIO
He discovers STROBILUS, and drags him from behind the altar.
Out, out, you earthworm, who have this instant crept out of the earth; who just now were nowhere seen, and now that you are seen shall die for it. By my faith, you juggler, I'll receive you now after a disagreable fashion. *Begins to shake and beat him.*

STROBILUS
What the curst plague does ail you? What business have you with me, old fellow? Why do you torment me? Why are you dragging me? For what reason are you beating me?

EUCLIO
You out-and-out whipping-post, do you even ask that, you, not thief, but thrice-dotted thief.

STROBILUS
What have I stolen from you?

EUCLIO
Give me that back here, if you please.

STROBILUS
What do you want me to give you back?

EUCLIO
Do you ask me that?

STROBILUS
As for me, I've taken nothing away from you.

EUCLIO
But give up that which you have taken away for yourself. Are you going to do so?

STROBILUS
Do what?

EUCLIO
You can't carry it off.

STROBILUS
What do you want?

EUCLIO

Lay it down.

STROBILUS
Troth, for my part, I think that you are in the habit of quizzing, old gentleman.

EUCLIO
Put that down, please; cease your quibbling; I'm not trifling now.

STROBILUS
What am I to put down? Why don't you mention it, whatever it is, by its own name? By my faith, I really have neither taken nor touched anything.

EUCLIO
Show me your hands, here.

STROBILUS
Well, I do show them; see, here they are. *Holdinq out his hands.*

EUCLIO
I see them. Come, show me the third, as well.

STROBILUS
aside . Sprites, and frenzy, and madness, possess this old fellow. Are you doing me an injustice, or not?

EUCLIO
A very great one, I confess, inasmuch as you are not strung up; and that too shall be done this moment, un less you do confess.

STROBILUS
What am I to confess to you?

EUCLIO
What it was you took away hence.

STROBILUS

May the Gods confound me, if I've taken away anything of yours, *aside* and if I don't wish I had taken it away.

EUCLIO
Come then, shake out your cloak.

STROBILUS
At your pleasure. *Shakes it.*

EUCLIO
You haven't it among your under-clothing?

STROBILUS
Search where you please.

EUCLIO
Pshaw! how civilly the rascal speaks, that I mayn't suppose he has taken it away! I know your tricks. Come, show me here again that right hand.

STROBILUS
Here it is. *Extending it.* EUC. Now show me your left.

STROBILUS
Well, then, I show you both, in fact. *Extending them.*

EUCLIO
Now I leave off searching. Give back that here.

STROBILUS
Give back what?

EUCLIO
Are you trifling with me? You certainly have got it.

STROBILUS
I, got it? Got what?

EUCLIO

I shan't say; you want to hear. Whatever you have of mine, give it back.

STROBILUS
You are mad; you've searched me all over at your own pleasure, and yet you've found nothing of yours in my possession.

EUCLIO
starting . Stop, stop; who was that? Who was the other that was within here, together with yourself? Troth, I'm undone; he's now rummaging about within. If I let this one go, he'll escape. At last, I've now searched this one all over; he has got nothing. Be off where you please; Jupiter and the Gods confound you!

STROBILUS
He returns his thanks not amiss.

EUCLIO
I'll go in here now, and I'll at once throttle this accomplice of yours. Will you not fly hence from my sight? Will you away from here, or no?

STROBILUS
I'm off.

EUCLIO
Take you care, please, how I see you. *(He goes into the Temple.)*

STROBIOUS, alone.

STROBILUS
I would rather that I were dead outright, by a shocking death, than not lay an ambush this day for that old fellow. But he'll not venture now to hide his gold here; he'll now be carrying it with him, I guess, and be changing the spot. But hark! there's a noise at the door. *Looking in the direction of the Temple.* See, the old fellow's bringing out the gold with him! Meanwhile, I'll step aside here to the door. *Conceals himself near the door.*

Enter EUCLIO, from the Temple, with the pot of money.

EUCLIO
to himself . I had thought that there was the very greatest dependence upon Faith; very nearly had she played me a pretty trick. If the raven hadn't come to my assistance, to my sorrow I should have been undone. Troth, I very much wish that raven would come to me which gave me the warning, that I might say something kind to him; for I would as soon give him something to eat as lose it. Now I'm thinking of a lonely spot where I shall hide this. The grove of Sylvanus, outside of the wall, is unfrequented, ana planted with many a willow; there will I choose a spot. I'm determined to trust Sylvanus, rather than Faith. *(Exit.)*

STROBILUS
re-appearing from his hiding-place . Capital! capital! the Gods will me to be safe and preserved! Now will I run before to that place, and climb up into some tree, and thence will I watch where the old fellow hides the gold. Although my master bade me remain here, I'm resolved rather to risk a mishap along with emolument. *(Exit.)*

Enter LYCONIDES and EUNOMIA, from the house of MEGADORUS.

LYCONIDES
I've told you all, mother; as well as I do myself, you understand all about the daughter of Euclio. Now, I do entreat you, my mother, make mention of it to my uncle, and I now unask of you, mother, that which before I entreated of you, to conceal this from Megadorus.

EUNOMIA
You know, yourself, that what you desire to be done, I desire, and I trust that I shall obtain this of my brother; and the reason is good, if 'tis so as you say, that in a drunken fit you debauched this damsel.

LYCONIDES
Could I, my mother, tell a falsehood in your presence?

PHÆDRA cries out in labour, in EUCLIO'S house. I die, my nurse; my pangs are coming on! I entreat thee for thy protection, Juno Lucina!

LYCONIDES
Ah! my mother, I see a more convincing proof for you; she's crying aloud — she's in the pangs of labour.

EUNOMIA
Come in-doors here, with me, my son, to my brother, that I may obtain a grant from him of that which you beg of me.

LYCONIDES
Go; I'll follow you this instant, mother. *EUNOMIA goes into the house.* But my servant, Strobilus, I wonder where he is, whom I ordered to wait here for me. Now I reflect with myself, if he's lending me his assistance, it isn't fair that I should be angry with him. I'll go in-doors, where they are sitting in judgment upon my life. *Goes into the house of MEGADORUS.*

Enter STROBILUS, with the pot of money.

STROBILUS
I, by myself, exceed the riches of the Griffins, who inhabit the golden mountains, For I'm unwilling to make mention of those other kings, beggarly fellows — I am the king Philip. O charming day! for when I went from here, just now, I arrived there much the first, and, long before, I placed myself in a tree, and thence observed where the old fellow hid the gold. When he departed thence, I let myself down from the tree, and dug up the pot full of gold. Thence, from that spot, I saw the old fellow betaking himself back again; he didn't see me, for I turned a little on one side, out of the path. Heyday! here he comes himself. I'll go and hide this away, at home. *Goes into the house of MEGADORUS.*

Enter EUCLIO, tearing his hair and wringing his hands.

EUCLIO

I'm ruined! I'm done for! I'm murdered! Whither shall I run? Whither not run? Stop him — stop him. Whom? who? I don't know. I see nothing! I'm going blindfold; and, in fact, whither I am going, or where I am, or who I am, I can't in my mind find out for certain. *To the AUDIENCE.* I beseech you, give me your aid (I beg and entreat of you), and point me out the person that has taken it away. What's the matter? Why do you laugh? I'm acquainted with you all; I know that there are many thieves here, who conceal themselves with white clothes and chalk, and sit as though they were honest! *To one of the SPECTATORS.* What say you? You I'm resolved to believe; for I perceive, even by your looks, that you are honest. Well then, none of these has got it? You've been the death of me! Tell me, then, who has got it? You don't know? Oh,wretched, wretched me! I'm done for! wofully undone! In most sorry plight I go; so much groaning, and misfortune, and sorrow, has this day brought upon me, hunger and poverty, too. I'm the most utterly ruined of all men upon the earth! For what need of life have I, who have lost so much gold that I so carefully watched? I pinched myself, and my inclinations, and my very heart! Now others are rejoicing at this, my loss and my misfortune! I cannot endure it. *He runs about, crying and stamping. Enter LYCONIDES, from the house of MEGADORUS.*

LYCONIDES
What person, I wonder, is this before our house lamenting, and that utters complaints with his moaning? Why,surely, this is Euclio, as I imagine. I'm utterly undone! The thing's all out; he knows now, as I suppose, that his daughter is brought to bed. I'm in a state of uncertainty now what I shall do, whether go or remain, accost him or fly.

EUCLIO
What person is it that speaks there?

LYCONIDES
'Tis I, wretch that I am.

EUCLIO

Yes, and so am I, and wretchedly ruined, whose lot is misfortune so great and sorrow.

LYCONIDES
Be of good courage.

EUCLIO
How, prithee, can I be so?

LYCONIDES
Because that deed which is afflicting your mind, I did it, and I confess it.

EUCLIO
What is it I hear from you?

LYCONIDES
That which is the truth.

EUCLIO
What evil, young man, have I deserved, by reason of which you should do thus, and go to ruin both me and my children?

LYCONIDES
A Divinity was my prompter; he prompted me to do it.

EUCLIO
How?

LYCONIDES
I confess that I have done wrong, and I know that I deserve censure; for that reason I'm come to beseech you, that, with feelings assuaged, you will pardon me.

EUCLIO
Why did you dare do so, to touch that which was not your own?

LYCONIDES

What do you wish to be done? The thing has been done; it can't be undone. I believe that the Gods willed it, for if they hadn't willed it, I know it wouldn't have happened.

EUCLIO
But I believe that the Gods have willed that I should be the death of you in fetters.

LYCONIDES
Don't say that!

EUCLIO
What business then have you to touch what is my own against my will?

LYCONIDES
Because I did it under the evil influence of wine and love.

EUCLIO
Most audacious man, that you should dare to come here to me with that speech, you impudent fellow! For if this is lawful, so that you may be able to excuse it — let us openly, in broad daylight, plunder their golden trinkets from ladies — after that, if we are caught, let us excuse ourselves, that we did it when intoxicated, by reason of being in love. Too cheap are wine and love, if one in liquor and in love is allowed to do with impunity whatever he pleases.

LYCONIDES
But I come to you of my own accord to supplicate you on account of my folly.

EUCLIO
Persons don't please me, who, when they've done wrong, excuse themselves. You knew that you had no right there; you oughtn't to have touched.

LYCONIDES
Therefore, inasmuch as I did dare to touch, I make no objection to

keep by all means.

EUCLIO
You, keep what is my own against my will?

LYCONIDES
Against your will, I do not ask; but I think that that which was yours ought to be mine. Moreover, Euclio, you'll find, I say, that mine it ought to be.

EUCLIO
Now really, on my word, I'll drag you to the Prætor and take proceedings against you, unless you make restitution.

LYCONIDES
Make restitution of what to you?

EUCLIO
What you've stolen of mine.

LYCONIDES
I, stolen of yours? Whence, or what is it?

EUCLIO
So shall Jupiter love you, how ignorant you are about it!

LYCONIDES
Unless, indeed, you tell me what you are enquiring for.

EUCLIO
The pot of gold, I say, I'm asking back of you, which you confessed to me that you had taken away.

LYCONIDES
By my faith, I've neither said so, nor have I done it.

EUCLIO
Do you deny it?

LYCONIDES
Yes, I do utterly deny it; for neither the gold nor yet this pot, what it means, do I know or understand.

EUCLIO
Give me up that pot which you took away from the wood of Sylvanus. Come, give it me back! I would rather give you the one-half of it. Although you are a thief to me, I'll not be hard upon the thief. Give it me back.

LYCONIDES
You are not in your senses, to call me a thief; I thought, Euclio, that you had come to the knowledge of another matter; as concerns myself, it is a great matter which I wish to speak with you upon at your leisure, if you are at leisure.

EUCLIO
Tell me, in good faith, have you not stolen that gold?

LYCONIDES
In good faith, No.

EUCLIO
Nor know who has taken it away?

LYCONIDES
In good faith, No, to that as well.

EUCLIO
But if you should know who has taken it away, will you discover it to me?

LYCONIDES
I will do so.

EUCLIO
Nor accept of a share from him, whoever he is, for yourself, nor harbour the thief?

LYCONIDES
Even so.

EUCLIO
What if you deceive me?

LYCONIDES
Then may great Jupiter do unto me what he pleases.

EUCLIO
I'm satisfied. Come, then, say what you wish.

LYCONIDES
If you know me but imperfectly, of what family I'm born:
Megadorus here is my uncle; Antimachus was my father; my name is Lyconides; Eunomia is my mother.

EUCLIO
I know the family; now, what do you want?

LYCONIDES
I want to know this. You have a daughter of yours?

EUCLIO
Why, yes, she's there at home.

LYCONIDES
You have, I think, recently betrothed her to my uncle?

EUCLIO
You have the whole matter.

LYCONIDES
He has now bade me announce to you his refusal of her.

EUCLIO
A refusal, when the things are got ready, and the wedding's prepared? May all the immortal Gods and Goddesses confound him,

so far as is possible, by reason of whom this day, unhappy wretch that I am, I have lost so much gold!

LYCONIDES
Be of good heart, and speak in kindly terms; now, a thing — may it turn out well and prosperously to you and your daughter. — May the Gods so grant — say.

EUCLIO
May the Gods so grant.

LYCONIDES
And for me, too, may the Gods so grant it. Now, then, do you listen. The man that admits a fault is not so much to be despised, if he feels a sense of shame when he excuses himself. Now, Euclio, I do beseech you, that what unawares I have done wrong towards yourself or your daughter, you will grant me pardon for the same, and give her for a wife to me, as the laws demand. I confess that I did violence to your daughter on the festival of Ceres, by reason of wine and the impulse of youth.

EUCLIO
Woe is me! What shocking deed do I hear of you?

LYCONIDES
Why do you exclaim? You whom I've made to be a grandfather now at the very wedding of your daughter. For your daughter has just been brought to bed in the ninth month after — calculate the number; for that reason, in my behalf, has my uncle sent his refusal. Go in-doors; enquire whether it is so or not as I say.

EUCLIO
I'm undone utterly; so very many misfortunes unite themselves for my undoing. I'll go in-doors, that I may know what of this is true. *He goes into his house.*

LYCONIDES
I'll follow you this instant. This matter seems now to be pretty nearly

in the haven of safety. Now, where to say my servant Strobilus is, I don't know, but yet I'll wait here still a little while; after that I'll follow this man indoors; now, in the meantime, I'll give him leisure to enquire of the nurse about my doings, the attendant of his daughter, whether she knows the truth. *Moves as if going.*

ACT V.

Enter STROBILUS, at a distance.

STROBILUS
to himself . Immortal Gods, with what and how great delights do you present me! I've got a four pound pot filled with gold; who there is richer than I? What man is there greater than I at Athens now; any one, I mean, to whom the Gods are propitious?

LYCONIDES
to himself . Why, surely, I seemed just now to hear the voice of some one speaking here.

STROBILUS
to himself . Ha! do I not see my master?

LYCONIDES
to himself . Do I see Strobilus now, my servant?

STROBILUS
to himself . 'Tis he himself.

LYCONIDES
to himself . 'Tis no other.

STROBILUS
to himself . I'll accost him.

LYCONIDES
to himself . I'll step out towards him. I do think that he has been, as I requested him, to the old woman, the nurse herself of this damsel.

STROBILUS
to himself . Why don't I tell him that I've found this prize, and speak out? For that reason, I'll beg of him to make me free. I'll go and speak to him. *Addressing him.* I've found ——

LYCONIDES
What have you found?

STROBILUS
Not that which the boys cry out that they've found in the bean.

LYCONIDES
And are you trifling with me then, as you are in the habit of doing?
He turns as if to go away.

STROBILUS
Master, stop; I'll speak out then; do listen.

LYCONIDES
Come then, tell me.

STROBILUS
I've found to-day, master very great riches.

LYCONIDES
Where, pray?

STROBILUS
A four pound pot, I say, full of gold!

LYCONIDES
What crime is this that I hear of from you?

STROBILUS
I've stolen it from this old fellow, Euclio.

LYCONIDES
Where is this gold?

STROBILUS
In my box at home; I now wish to be made free.

LYCONIDES
I, make you free, you fellow, brimful of wickedness?

STROBILUS
Out upon you, master, I know what you would be at. Troth, I've cleverly tried your inclination; you were just getting ready to take it away from me; what would you do, if I had found it?

LYCONIDES
You can't make good your pretences. Come, give up the gold!

STROBILUS
I, give up the gold?

LYCONIDES
Give it up, I say, that it may be given back to him.

STROBILUS
Where am I to get it from?

LYCONIDES
That which you confessed just now to be in your box.

STROBILUS
I' faith, I'm in the habit of talking nonsense; 'twas in that way I was speaking.

LYCONIDES
seizinq him . But do you know what? ——

STROBILUS
Even kill me outright, i' faith, you never shall get it hence of me ...
A SUPPLEMENT TO THE AULULARIA BY CODRUS URCEUS.

STROBILUS
—— the pot belonging to the old fellow, which I've not got.

LYCONIDES
I will have it, whether you will or no; when I've tied you up all fours, and torn asunder your body for you tied up to the beam. But why do I delay to rush upon the jaws of this rascal, and why this instant do I

not compel his soul to take its journey before its time? Are you going to give it me or not?

STROBILUS
I will give it you.

LYCONIDES
I want you to give it me now, and not at a future time.

STROBILUS
I'll give it now; but I entreat you to allow me to recover breath. *LYCONIDES lets him go.* Aha! What is it you want me to give you, master?

LYCONIDES
Don't you know, you rascal? And do you dare to refuse me the four pound pot full of gold which you just now said you had stolen? *Calling at the door.* Hallo there! Where now are the flogging men?

STROBILUS
Master, do hear a few words. Lyc. I won't hear; floggers, hallo there — hallo!

Enter two FLOGGING SLAVES.

SLAVE.
What's the matter?

LYCONIDES
I want the chains to be got ready.

STROBILUS
Listen to me, I beg of you; afterwards order them to bind me as much as you please.

LYCONIDES
I will hear you; but hasten the matter very quickly.

STROBILUS
If you order me to be tortured to death, see what you obtain; in the first place, you have the death of your slave. Then, what you wish for you cannot get. But if you had only allured me by the reward of dear liberty, you would already have obtained your wish. Nature produces all men free, and by nature all desire freedom. Slavery is worse than every evil, than every calamity; and he whom Jupiter hates, him he first makes a slave.

LYCONIDES
You speak not unwisely

STROBILUS
Now then hear the rest. Our age has produced masters too grasping, whom I'm in the habit of calling Harpagos, Harpies, and Tantali, poor amid great wealth, and thirsty in the midst of the waters of Ocean; no riches are enough for them, not those of Midas, not of Crœsus; not all the wealth of the Persians can satisfy their Tartarean maw. Masters use their slaves rigorously, and slaves now obey their masters but tardily; so on neither side is that done which would be fair to be done. Their provisions, kitchens, and store-cellars, avaricious old fellows shut up with a thousand keys. Slaves, thievish, doubledealers, and artful, open for themselves things shut up with a thousand keys, which the owners hardly like to be granted to their lawful children, and stealthily do they carry off, consume, and lick them up — fellows that will never disclose their hundred thefts even at the gibbet; thus in laughter and joking do bad slaves take revenge upon their slavery. So then, I come to the conclusion that liberality renders slaves faithful.

LYCONIDES
Rightly, indeed, have you spoken, but not in a few words, as you promised me. But if I do make you free, will you give me back what I'm asking for?

STROBILUS
I will give it back; but I wish for witnesses to be present; you'll

pardon me, master, I trust you but little.

LYCONIDES
Just as you please; let there be present even a hundred; then I shouldn't care about it.

STROBILUS
going to the door of the house of MEGADORUS . Megadorus, and you, Eunomia, please come here, I beg of you; the business finished, you shall return directly.

Enter MEGADORUS and EUNOMIA.

MEGADORUS
Who's calling us? Ha! Lyconides!

EUNOMIA
Ha! Strobilus, what is the matter? Say.

LYCONIDES
'Tis a short matter.

MEGADORUS
What is it?

STROBILUS
I'm calling you as witnesses. If I bring here a four pound pot full of gold and give it up to Lyconides, Lyconides makes me a free man, and orders me to be my own master. *To LYCONIDES.* Do you not promise me so?

LYCONIDES
I do promise so.

STROBILUS
Have you heard now what he has said?

MEGADORUS

We have heard.

STROBILUS
Swear, then, by Jupiter.

LYCONIDES
Alas! to what I am reduced by the misfortunes of others! You are too insulting; still, I'll do what he bids me.

STROBILUS
Hark you, our generation hasn't much confidence in people: the documents are signed; the twelve witnesses are present; the registrar writes down the time and the place; and still, the pleader is found to deny that it has been done.

LYE.
But release me speedily, please.

STROBILUS
Here, take this stone. *Giving him a stone.*

LYCONIDES
If I knowingly deceive you, so may Jupiter reject from me his blessings, the city and citadel safe, as I do this stone. *(He throws it.* Have I now satisfied you?

STROBILUS
I am satisfied; and I'm going to bring the gold.

LYCONIDES
Go with the speed of Pegasus, and return devouring the road with your rapid steps. *Exit STROBILUS.* Any impertinent slave, that wishes to be more wise than his master, is a nuisance to a decent man. Let this Strobilus be off as a free man to utter perdition, if he only brings me the pot full of pure gold, so that I may restore Euclio, my father-in-law, from his grief to joy, and obtain the favour of his daughter, who is just brought to bed by reason of my debauching her. But see! Strobilus is returning, loaded; as I guess, he's bringing the

pot; and, for sure, it is the pot that he's carrying.

Enter STROBIOUS, carrying the pot of gold.

STROBILUS
Lyconides, I bring you my findings that I promised — the four pound pot of gold; have I been long?

LYCONIDES
Why, yes. *He takes some of the gold out of the pot.* O immortal Gods, what do I behold? Or what is it I hold? More than six hundred Philippean pieces, three or four times over. But let's call out Euclio forthwith.

LYCONIDES
going to the door of EUCLIO'S house . Ho, Eucho, Euclio!

MEGADORUS
Euclio, Euclio!

EUCLIO
opening his window . What' the matter?

LYCONIDES
Come down to us, for the Gods will you to be saved; we've got the pot.

EUCLIO
Have you got it, or are you trifling with me?

LYCONIDES
We've got it, I say. Now, if you can, fly down hither.

EUCLIO
having come out of the house to them . O great Jupiter! O household Divinity and Queen Juno! and Alcides, my treasurer! that at length you do show pity upon a wretched old man. *Taking the pot in his arms.* O my pot! O how aged I, your friend, do clasp you with joyful

arms, and receive you with kisses; with a thousand embraces even I cannot be satisfied. O my hope! my heart! that dissipates my grief.

LYCONIDES
aside, to MEGADORUS . I always thought that to be in want of gold was the worst thing for both boys and men, and all old people. Indigence compels boys to be guilty of misdeeds, men to thieve, and old men themselves to become beggars. But 'tis much worse, as I now see, to abound in gold beyond what's necessary for us. Alas! what miseries has Euclio endured on account of the pot, that a little while since was lost by him!

EUCLIO
To whom shall I give deserved thanks? Whether to the Gods, who show regard for good men, or to my friends, upright men, or to them both? Rather to both, I think; and first to you, Lyconides, the origin and author of so great a good; you do I present with this pot of gold; accept it with pleasure. I wish it to be your own, and my daughter as well, in the presence of Megadorus, and his good sister, Eunomia.

LYCONIDES
receiving the pot of gold . The favour is received, and is returned, in thanks, as you deserve, Eucho, a father-in-law most acceptable to me.

EUCLIO
I shall think the favour sufficiently returned to me, if you now receive with pleasure my gift, and myself as well for your father-in-law.

LYCONIDES
I do receive it; and I wish my house to be that of Euclio.

STROBILUS
What still remains, master, — remember now that I'm to be free.

LYCONIDES
You've well put me in mind. Be you a free man, O Strobilus, for

your deserts; and now prepare in-doors the dinner that has been so disturbed.

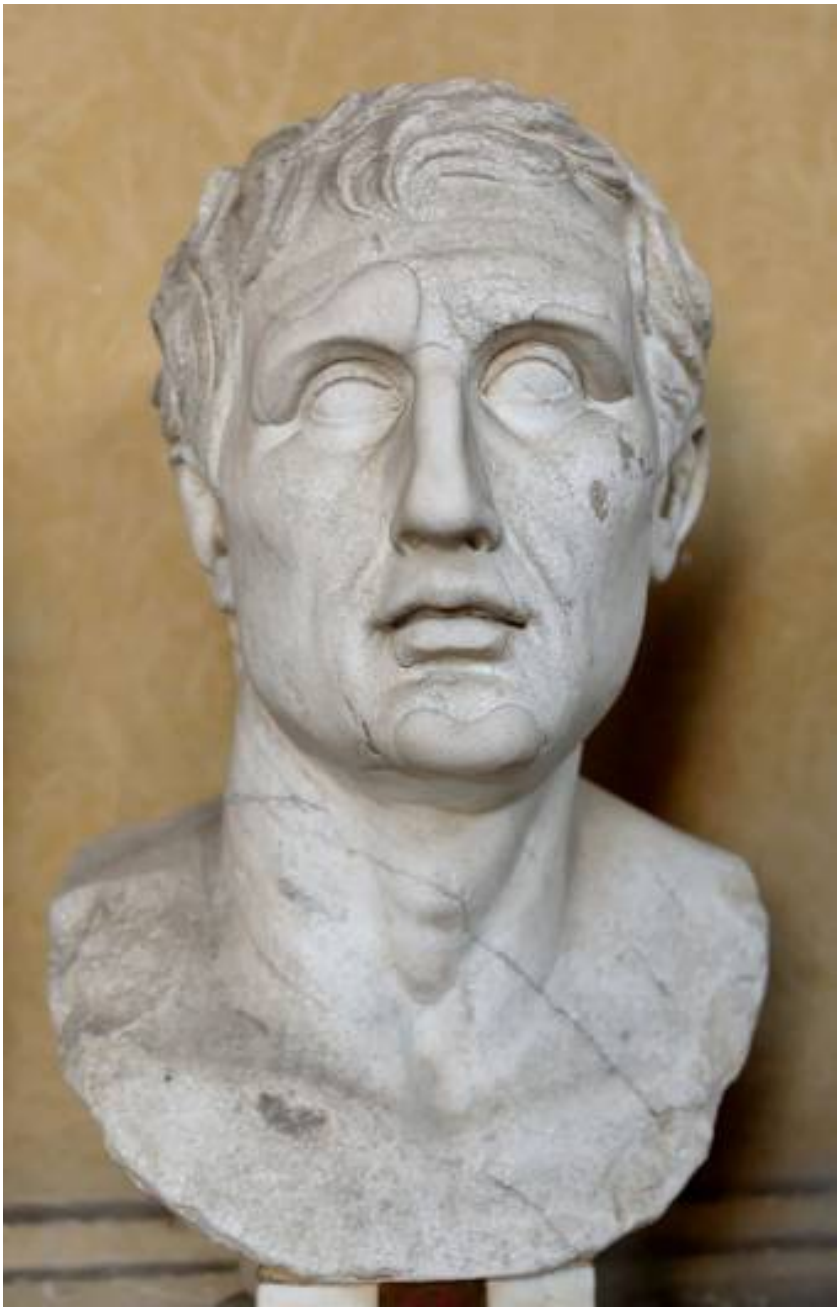
STROBILUS
coming forward . Spectators, the avaricious Euclio has changed his nature; he has suddenly become liberal; so, too, do you practise liberality; and if the play has pleased you well, loudly clap your hands.

BACCHIDES

Translated by Henry Thomas Riley

The plot of this comedy revolves around the misunderstandings surrounding two sisters, each called Bacchis, who work in a brothel. *Bacchides* includes The play was most likely an adaptation of the play Δὶς Ἐξαπατῶν (Dis Exapaton), meaning Twice Deceiving but more commonly known as *The Double Deceiver*, by the Greek New Comedy playwright Menander. The beginning of the text is lost and so is often reconstructed in modern-day adaptations using contextual clues as well as twenty surviving fragments.

The plot opens with two young friends, Mnesilochus and Pistoclerus, who have fallen in love with two sisters, the courtesans named Bacchis. Mnesilochus's Bacchis has been hired for a year by Cleomachus. In order to get the money to purchase her release Mnesilochus asks Chrysalus, the clever slave, to extort money from Nicobulus (a common recipe in Greek and Roman comedies). Chrysalus succeeds in getting two hundred coins from the old man but then Pistoclerus announces his love for Bacchis. Mnesilochus, not knowing that there is more than one Bacchis, hands back the money to his father and reveals the whole deception and Chrysalus's part in it. Then the truth is revealed… There are two Bacchises and Pistoclerus loves the other Bacchis!



Menander (c. 342/41–c. 290 BC), a Greek dramatist and the best-known

representative of Athenian New Comedy, is believed to be the original source behind this play. He wrote 108 comedies and took the prize at the Lenaia festival eight times.

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THE SUBJECT.

MNESILOCHUS, when absent at Ephesus, writes and requests his friend, Pistoclerus, to search for his mistress, Bacchis, who has left Athens with a military Captain. Having discovered her on her return to Athens, Pistoclerus falls in love with her twin-sister, whose name is also Bacchis, and is severely reproved by his tutor, Lydus, for so doing. Mnesilochus returns to Athens, and discovers from Lydus that his friend Pistoclerus is in love with a female of the name of Bacchis. He thereupon imagines that he has supplanted him with his own mistress, and in his anger resolves to restore to his father some money of his which he had gone to Ephesus to recover, and a part of which he had contrived, through a scheme of the servant Chrysalus, to retain, in order that he might redeem his mistress from the Captain. Having afterwards discovered the truth, he greatly repents that he has done so, as the officer threatens to carry Bacchis off instantly, if the money is not paid. On this, Chrysalus contrives another stratagem against Nicobulus, his aged master, and makes him, through fear of the Captain's threats, pay the required sum. Having gained not only this but a still further sum of money, the young men regale themselves at the house of Bacchis. Nicobulus afterwards discovers from the Captain the trick that has been played upon him, and he and Mnesilochus repair to the house of Bacchis to demand their sons. The damsels, hereupon, apply themselves to coaxing the old men, who are at last persuaded to forgive their sons and Chrysalus and to go into the house and join the entertainment.

THE ACROSTIC ARGUMENT.

[Supposed to have been written by Priscian the Grammarian.]

MNESILOCHUS is inflamed with love for Bacchis (Bacchidis). But, first of all, he goes to Ephesus, to bring back some gold (Aurum). Bacchis sails for Crete (Cretam), and meets with (Convenit) the other Bacchis; thence she returns to Athens; upon this (Hinc), Mnesilochus sends a letter to Pistoclerus, that he may seek for her (Illam). He returns; he makes a quarrel while (Dum) he supposes that his own mistress is beloved by Pistoclerus; when they have discovered the mistake as to the twin-sisters, Mnesilochus pays the gold to that (Ei) Captain; equally are the two in love. The old men (Senes), while they are looking after their sons, join the women, and carouse. THE PROLOGUE.

SILENUS

mounted on his Ass.

'Tis a wonder if the spectators on the benches this day don't hiss, and cough, and make a snorting noise at this ridiculous sight, furrow their brows, and, with cries with one consent, shout all aloud, and mutter imprecations. Hardly in their youth can beardless actors, or mimics with their beards plucked out, find room upon the stage. Why comes forth this aged and lethargic go-between, who is borne upon the ass's back? Listen, I pray, and give me your attention, while I tell you the name of this quiet Comedy. 'Tis proper for you to make silence for a Divinity. It befits not those to use the resources of the voice, who come here not to exclaim, but to be spectators. Give me attentive ears; but not into my hands I mean; I wish my voice, as it flies, to strike these vacant ears. What do you fear? Are those blows more hurtful which open what is shut, or which close what is open? You're very kind; the inhabitants of heaven do love you deservedly. There is profound silence — even the children are still — and now, attend to a new-come messenger, on a new errand. Who I am — why I am come to you — I'll tell you in a few words; at the same time, I'll disclose to you the name of this Comedy. Now, behold, I shall tell

you what you wish to know; do you then give me your attention. I am a God of Nature, the foster-father of most mighty Bromius, him who, with a female army, gained a kingdom. Whatever about him renowned nations relate, some part, at least, has been accomplished by my advice. That which pleases me is never displeasing to him. 'Tis right if one father another father does obey. Ass-borne do the Ionian multitudes style me, because I am borne on an ass for my conveyance. Who I am, you understand: if you understand, allow me now to tell the name of this quiet play; at the same time, you may learn why I have come to you. Philemon formerly produced a play in Greek; this, those who speak the Greek language call "Evantides;" Plautus, who speaks the Latin, calls it "Bacchides." 'Tis not to be wondered, then, if hither I have come. Bacchus sends to you the Bacchides — the Bacchanalian Bacchanals. I am bringing them unto you. What! Have I told a lie? It don't become a God to tell a lie; but the truth I tell — I bring not them; but the salacious ass, wearied with its journey, is bringing to you three, if I remember right. One you behold; see now, what on my lips I bring — to wit, two Samian sisters, Bacchanalians, merry Courtesans, born of the same parents, at one time, at a twin-birth; not less alike than milk to milk, if you compare it, or water to water; were you to see them you would think them halved; so much would you confuse your sight, that you would not be able to distinguish which was which. What remains you long to hear. Now give attention: the story of this Play I will disclose. What country Samos is, is known to all; for seas, lands, mountains, and islands, have your legions made easy of access. There, Sostrata bore to her husband, Pyrgoteles Pyrocles, twin daughters at one birth; and it pleased them, being initiated at the triennial festival of Bacchus, to call after his name the damsels of which they were the parents. The parents, as often happens, gave a turn to their future fortunes. A Captain carried one of them with him to Crete. The other of the twins sailed for Athens. As soon as Mnesilochus, the son of Nicobulus, beheld her, he began to love her, and frequently paid her visits. Meantime, his father sent the youth to Ephesus, to bring back thence some gold, which he himself, some time before, had deposited with Archidemides, an ancient friend of his, an aged Phœnician. When, for two years he had stayed at Ephesus, he

received the sad news that Bacchis was gone from Athens, for some sailors of his acquaintance sent him word that she had set sail. On this, he writes a letter to Pistoclerus, his only friend, the son of Philoxenus, entreating him to seek the fugitive with care and earnestness. While Pistoclerus is devoting his services to his friend, the twin-sisters, who have just returned to Athens, arouse a passion in the seeker. The one wins Pistoclerus for herself; the other longs for the coming of Mnesilochus. What wonder if two bewitching, merry, pretty Bacchantes, should attract to themselves two unfledged Bacchanalians, and if they should ensnare their decrepit, most aged fathers, fit subjects for the undertaker, bowed down by the weight of their years? But, see, here's Pistoclerus, who is returning to the Bacchides so lately found, and in his simplicity is blowing in himself the sparks of passion so lately kindled. Now I'm off — do you attend. *(Exit.)*

ACT I.

Enter PISTOCLERUS.

PISTOCLERUS
... those who are of a thrifty turn of mind, modest, and without servility. ... Chains, rods, and mills; their shocking brutality becomes worse. ... She who keeps my friend and me engaged. ... *(Exit.) Enter FIRST BACCHIS.*

1st BACCHIS
I have heard that Ulysses underwent toils innumerable, who, in wanderings, was twenty years away from his native land. But this young man by far outdoes Ulysses; who here in this spot is wandering within the walls of the city. ...

1st BACCHIS
... She was of the same name with myself. ...

1st BACCHIS
Sweep out the house with brooms, work briskly. ... Will some one call that most dirty fellow with the water-pail and the water. *CLEOMACHUS, SECOND BACCHIS.*

CLEOMACHUS
... But if a life of wantonness is perchance preferred by you, consider the price that I agreed to give you that at that age you might not be following me for nought ... that from no one else you might be receiving a yearly pay, except from oneself, nor be toying with any man ... like slugs upon a man. *PISTOCLERUS, SECOND BACCHIS, SERVANT. ...*

PISTOCLERUS
As like as milk is to milk; whatever is her name ...

SERVANT
The soldier who sells his life for gold ... I know that his breath is

much stronger than when the bellows of bull's hide are blowing, when the rocks melt where the iron is made.

PISTOCLERUS
Of what country did he seem to you?

SERVANT
I think he is of Præneste; he was such a boaster.

PISTOCLERUS
... The city ... and I don't think it is in spurious boastfulness. ... *Enter FIRST and SECOND BACCHIS.*

1st BACCHIS
... My heart, my hope, my honey, my sweetness, my nutriment, my delight. ... Let me bestow on you my love ... the Arabian ... Has Cupid or has love overpowered you? ... Perhaps to suspect that you are in love. ... Get money from that quarter ... for I really do believe that with ease you can enchant the heart of any man.

1st BACCHIS
And suppose it is much better that you should hold your peace, and I should speak?

2nd BACCHIS
With pleasure; you may proceed.

1st BACCHIS
When my memory shall fail me, then do you take care to aid me, sister.

2nd BACCHIS
I' faith, I'm more afraid that I shan't have the choice of prompting you.

1st BACCHIS
Troth, I'm afraid the little nightingale may lose her powers of song. Follow this way. *They move. Enter PISTOCLERUS.*

PISTOCLERUS
What are these two Courtesans, the namesake-sisters, about?

1st BACCHIS
Nothing is there more wretched than a woman.

PISTOCLERUS
What, say you, is there more worthy of it? What have you been planning in your consultation?

1st BACCHIS
What's proper?

PISTOCLERUS
I' faith, that doesn't belong to the Courtesan.

1st BACCHIS
This sister of mine entreats me so to find some person to protect her against this Captain; that when she as served her time he may bring her back home. Do you, I entreat you, be her protector.

PISTOCLERUS
Why should I protect her?

1st BACCHIS
That she may be brought home again, when she has fulfilled her engagement to him, so that he may not take her as a servant for himself. But, if she had the gold to pay him back again, gladly would she do so.

PISTOCLERUS
Where now is this person?

1st BACCHIS
I expect that he'll be here just now. But this you'll be able to arrange better among ourselves; and sitting there, you shall wait until he comes. So you will drink some wine, and so, I'll give you a kiss when you have drunk it.

PISTOCLERUS
Your coaxing is mere birdlime.

1st BACCHIS
How so?

PISTOCLERUS
Because, in fact, I understand how you two are aiming at one poor pigeon, myself; *aside* very nearly is the limed reed breaking my feathers. Madam, I judge that such deeds befit me not.

1st BACCHIS
Why so, I pray?

PISTOCLERUS
Bacchis, it is, because I dread you Bacchantes, and your Bacchanalian den.

1st BACCHIS
What is it that you dread? Surely, not that the couch in my house may lead you into mischief?

PISTOCLERUS
Your allurements, more than your couch, do I dread. You're a mischievous serpent. But, madam, a lurking-place does not befit this youthful age.

1st BACCHIS
Should you wish at my house to do anything that's unwise, I myself should hinder it. But, when the Captain comes, I wish you to be at my house for this reason; because, when you are present, no one will do her and me any injury. You will prevent that, and by the same means you will be aiding your friend; this Captain, too, on arriving, will suspect that I am your mistress. Why are you silent, pray?

PISTOCLERUS
Because these things are pleasant in the talking of; but in the practice, and when you make trial, the same are armed with stings.

They pierce the feelings, goad one's fortune, and wound one's merits and character.

2nd BACCHIS
What do you dread from her?

PISTOCLERUS
What do I dread, do you ask? Am I a person in my youth to enter a place of exercise of such a nature, where people sweat to their undoing? — where for the quoit I rereive a loss, disgrace, too, for my running?

2nd BACCHIS
How charmingly you do talk.

PISTOCLERUS
Where I'm to take a turtle-dove instead of a sword, and where another puts into my hand the goblet instead of the cestus; the drinking-cup is in place of the helmet, the wreathed garland instead of the crest, the dice in place of the lance. For the coat of mail I should have to assume a soft cloak; where, too, in place of a horse a couch must be given me, — for shield, a strumpet may be lying by me. Avaunt from me — avaunt!

2nd BACCHIS
O, you're too fierce.

PISTOCLERUS
I am attending to my own interests.

2nd BACCHIS
You must be softened down; and, in fact, I offer you my aid in this.

PISTOCLERUS
But you are too expensive an assistant.

1st BACCHIS
Do pretend that you are in love with me.

PISTOCLERUS
Whether should I be pretending that in jest, or seriously?

1st BACCHIS
Well said! better to do the last. When the Captain comes here, I want you to embrace me.

PISTOCLERUS
What need is there of my doing that?

1st BACCHIS
I want him to see you. I know what I'm about?

PISTOCLERUS
And I, i' faith, I know not what I'm in fear of. But what say you ——— ?

1st BACCHIS
What's the matter now?

PISTOCLERUS
Well, suppose perchance on a sudden a breakfast or a drinking bout, or else a dinner, should take place at your house, just as is the wont in such places of resort; where, then, should I take my place?

1st BACCHIS
Near myself, my life, that with a she wit a he wit may be reclining at the repast. A place here, at our house, should you come late, is always at your service. When you wish right merrily to disport yourself, my rosebud, you say to me, "Do let me enjoy myself to-day," I'll provide you a delightful place where it may be so.

PISTOCLERUS
Here is a rapid stream; not without hazard can this way be passed.

1st BACCHIS
aside . And, by my troth, something must you lose amid this stream. *Aloud.* Give me your hand and follow me.

PISTOCLERUS
O, by no means. 1st

FIRST BACCHIS
Why so?

PISTOCLERUS
Because to a man in his youth nothing can be more alluring than these — night, women, wine.

1st BACCHIS
Away, then, with you; for my part, I don't at all care for it, but for your own sake. The Captain, then, shall take her off; don't you be present at all if you don't choose.

PISTOCLERUS
to himself . And am I a thing of nothing, who cannot moderate my own passions?

1st BACCHIS
What's there for you to fear?

PISTOCLERUS
There's nothing; all nonsense. Madam, I resign myself to you. I'm yours; to you do I devote my services.

1st BACCHIS
You are a dear man. Now I wish you to do this. To-day I want to give a welcome entertainment to my sister. For that purpose I shall at once order the money to be brought you from in-doors. Do you take care and cater for us a splendid entertainment.

PISTOCLERUS
No, I'll stand treat; for it would be a shame, that on my account you both should take trouble for me, and by reason of that trouble should pay the expense from your own means.

1st BACCHIS

But I can't allow you to give anything.

PISTOCLERUS
Do let me.

1st BACCHIS
Well, I'll let you, if you choose. Prithee, do make haste.

PISTOCLERUS
I shall be here again, before I cease to love you. *(Exit PISTOCLERUS.)*

2nd BACCHIS
You entertain me pleasantly upon my return, my sister.

1st BACCHIS
How so, prithee?

2nd BACCHIS
Because, in my way of thinking, this day a lucky haul has fallen to your lot.

1st BACCHIS
He's mine, assuredly. Now, sister, with respect to Mnesilochus, I'll give you my aid, that here at home you may be receiving gold, rather than be going hence together with the Captain.

2nd BACCHIS
That's my desire.

1st BACCHIS
My aid shall be given you. The water's warm; let's go in, that you may bathe. For, as you have travelled on board ship, you are faint, I think.

2nd BACCHIS
A little so, sister. *PISTOCLERUS is seen at a distance.* Besides, he's beginning to cause I don't know what bustle. Let's begone hence.

1st BACCHIS
Follow me this way in-doors to bathe, that you may relieve your weariness.

Enter PISTOCLERUS, accompanied by People with Provisions for the Entertainment, followed by LYDES.

LYDUS
For some time, Pistoclerus, I've been following you in silence, watching what you were doing in this dress. For, so may the Gods favour me, even Lycurgus himself seems to me as if he could be led into debauchery here. Whither now are you betaking yourself hence in an opposite direction with such a train?

PISTOCLERUS
To this place *pointing to the house* .

LYDUS
Why to this place? Who lives there?

PISTOCLERUS
Love, Pleasure, Venus, Beauty, Joy, Jesting, Dalliance, Converse, and Sweet-kissing.

LYDUS
What intercourse have you with these most destructive Deities?

PISTOCLERUS
Bad are those men who speak evil of the good. You speak not well of even the Gods themselves; you do what is not right.

LTD.
Is Sweet-kissing, then, some God?

PISTOCLERUS
And do you not think she is? O Lydus, why, what a barbarians you are, you, whom I had deemed to be far more wise than Thales hinself. Go to, you are more foolish than Potitius, the foreigner, who,

at an age so advanced, knew not the names of the Divinities.

LYDUS
This dress of yours pleases me not.

PISTOCLERUS
But no one prepared it for you; it was prepared for myself, whom it pleases well.

LYDUS
And do you commence upon your repartees against myself even? You, who, if you had even ten tongues, ought to be silent.

PISTOCLERUS
Not every age, Lydus, is suited for school. One thing especially is just now on my mind, how the cook may with due care attend to these things as befits the elegance of the entertainment.

LYDUS
Now have you undone yourself and me and all my labours, me who so oft have shown you what is right, all to no purpose.

PISTOCLERUS
In the same place have I lost my labour where you've lost yours: your instructions profit neither me nor yourself.

LYDUS
O obdurate heart!

PISTOCLERUS
You are troublesome to me. Hold your tongue, Lydus, and follow me.

LYDUS
Now, see that, please; he no longer calls me "tutor," but mere "Lydus."

PISTOCLERUS

It seems not proper, nor can it be fit, that, when a person is in a house, and is reclining at the feast together with his mistress, and is kissing her, and the other guests are reclining too, the tutor should be there too in their presence.

LYDUS
Are these provisions purchased for such a purpose, pray?

PISTOCLERUS
My intentions, indeed, expect so; how it falls out, is in the hands of the Gods.

LYDUS
Will you be having a mistress?

PISTOCLERUS
When you see, then you'll know.

LYDUS
Aye, but you shall not have one, and I won't allow it. Go back again home.

PISTOCLERUS
Do leave me alone, Lydus, and beware of mischief.

LYDUS
What? Beware of mischief? O yawning gulf, where art thou now? How gladly would I avail myself of thee! Already have I lived far longer than I could have wished. 'Twere much better now to have once existed than to be living still. That any pupil should thus threaten his tutor!

PISTOCLERUS
My years are now advanced beyond your tutorship.

LYDUS
I want no pupils for me with heated blood. An up-grown one may harass me thus devoid of strength.

PISTOCLERUS
As I guess, I shall become a Hercules, and you a Linus.

LYDUS
I' faith, I fear more that through your goings-on I shall become a Phœnix, and have to tell the news to your father that you are dead.

PISTOCLERUS
Enough of these stories.

LYDUS
This youth is lost to shame; the man's ruined. And does it then recur to you that you have a father?

PISTOCLERUS
Am I your servant, or you mine?

LYDUS
By my troth, you made an exchange not desirable for that age of yours, when you gained these impudent ways. Some bad master has been teaching you all this, not I. You are a scholar far more apt at these pursuits than at those lessons which I taught you when I was losing my labour. Troth, 'twas a bad piece of deceit you were guilty of at your age, when you concealed these vicious tendencies from myself and from your father.

PISTOCLERUS
Lydus, you have thus far had liberty of speech; that is enough. So now do you follow this way, and hold your tongue. *They go into the house of BACCHIS.*

ACT II.

Enter CHRYSALUS.

CHRYSALUS
All hail, land of my master! which I joyfully behold after the two years that I have been absent hence at Ephesus. I salute thee, neighbour Apollo, who dost have thy shrine close by our house, and to thee do I make my prayer, that thou wilt not let me meet our old gentleman, Nicobulus, before I have seen Pistoclerus, the friend of Mnesilochus, him to whom Mnesilochus has sent the letter about his mistress, Bacchis.

Enter PISTOCLERUS from the house of BACCHIS.

PISTOCLERUS
to the FIRST BACCHIS within . 'Tis strange that you are so earnestly begging me to return, who am able by no possible means to depart hence, if I were willing, so bound down, and so enchained with love do you hold me.

CHRYSALUS
O, ye immortal Gods, I espy Pistoclerus! O, Pistoclerus, hail!

PISTOCLERUS
Hail, Chrysalus, to you!

CHRYSALUS
I will at present compress many speeches for you in a small space. You are glad that I am come; I give you credit for it. You promise me lodging and an entertainment coming from my journey, as it is befitting, and I agree to come. I bring you the sincere greetings of your friend. Would you ask me where he is? He's come.

PISTOCLERUS
Is he alive and well?

CHRYSALUS
That I was wishful to enquire of yourself.

PISTOCLERUS
How can I know?

CHRYSALUS
No one better.

PISTOCLERUS
Why, in what way?

CHRYSALUS
Because if she has been found whom he so loves, he is alive and well. If she is not found, he is not well, and is like to die. His mistress is the very life of a lover. If she is away, he is non-existent; if she is with him, his property is non-existent, and himself worthless and wretched. But what have you done in respect of his commission?

PISTOCLERUS
And ought I not to have his request complied with against his arrival, which his messenger brought to me from him? I'd sooner be dwelling in the realms of Acheron than not.

CHRYSALUS
How now, have you found out this Bacchis?

PISTOCLERUS
Yes, and a Samian one too.

CHRYSALUS
Prithee, do take care that no one handles her carelessly: you know how soon a Samian vessel is wont to break.

PISTOCLERUS
What now, your old habit?

CHRYSALUS

Prithee, do tell me where she now is.

PISTOCLERUS
Here, where you just now saw me coming out.

CHRYSALUS
How capital that is! She's living almost next door. Does she at all remember Mnesilochus?

PISTOCLERUS
Do you ask me that? Aye, him alone does she esteem at the very highest value.

CHRYSALUS
Indeed!

PISTOCLERUS
Yes, and were you to believe her, distractedly in love — she quite longs for him.

CHRYSALUS
That's good.

PISTOCLERUS
Yes, Chrysalus; see, now; not even so small a space of time ever passes by as this, out that she is uttering his name.

CHRYSALUS
I' faith, so much the better. *Moving, as if about to go.*

PISTOCLERUS
Yes; but — *Holds him.* CHRYS. Yes, faith, I'd rather be off.

PISTOCLERUS
And do you so unwillingly hear how your master's interests have prospered?

CHRYSALUS

No, not the subject, but the actor offends my feelings with his tediousness. Even “Epidicus,” a play that I love quite as much as my own self, were Pollio to act it, no play would I see so reluctantly. But, does Bacchis seem handsome, as well, to you?

PISTOCLERUS
Do you ask the question? Had I not got a Venus, I should pronounce her a Juno.

CHRYSALUS
I’ faith, Mnesilochus, as I find these matters proceeding, there’s something ready for you to love; ’tis needful that you find something to give her. But, perhaps you have need of gold for that other one?

PISTOCLERUS
Yes, some Philippeans.

CHRYSALUS
And you have need of it directly, perhaps?

PISTOCLERUS
Aye, and even sooner than directly. For there’s a Captain coming here just now ——

CHRYSALUS
A Captain, indeed!

PISTOCLERUS
Who is demanding some gold here for relinquishing Bacchis.

CHRYSALUS
Let him come when he pleases, and so there be no delay. The money’s at home; I fear not for myself, nor do I go begging to any man; so long, at least, as this heart of mine shall be armed with its inventiveness. Go in; I’ll manage here. Do you tell them in-doors, that Mnesilochus is coming to Bacchis.

PISTOCLERUS

I'll do as you request. *Goes into the house of BACCHIS.*

CHRYSALUS
The money business belongs to me. From Ephesus we have brought twelve hundred golden Philippeans, which our entertainer owed to our old gentleman. Hence, some contrivance will I this day contrive, to procure gold for this son of my master thus in love. But there's a noise at our door — who's coming out of doors, I wonder? *Stands aside.*

Enter NICOBULUS from his house.

NICOBULUS
to himself . To the Piræus will I go; I'll go see whether any merchant-ship has come into harbour from Ephesus. For my mind misgives me; my son lingers there so long, and does not return.

CHRYSALUS
aside . Now, I'll finely unravel him, if the Gods are propitious. There must be no sleeping; gold is requisite for Chrysalus. I'll accost him, whom for sure this day I'll make a ram of Phryxus of; so, even to the quick, will I shear him of his gold. *Accosting him.* His servant Chrysalus salutes Nicobulus.

NICOBULUS
O, immortal Gods! where is my son?

CHRYSALUS
Why don't you return the salutation first, which I gave you?

NICOBULUS
Well, save you. But where on earth is Mnesilochus P

CHRYSALUS
He is alive and well. Nico. Is he not come?

CHRYSALUS
He is come. Nico. Hurra! you've brought me to my senses. And has

he all along been well?

CHRYSALUS
Aye, well as a boxer and an athlete.

NICOBULUS
But what as to this — the business on account or which I sent him hence to Ephesus? Has he rot received the gold from his entertainer, Archidemides?

CHRYSALUS
Alas! my heart and my brain are cleft, Nicobulus, whenever mention is made of that fellow. Why don't you call that entertainer of his your enemy?

NICOBULUS
Troth now, prithee, why so?

CHRYSALUS
Because, i' faith, I know for sure, that Vulcan, the Moon, the Sun, the Day, those four Divinities, never shone upon another more wicked.

NICOBULUS
What, than Archidemides? Dear me!

CHRYSALUS
Than Archidemides, I say.

NICOBULUS
What has he done?

CHRYSALUS
What has he not done? Why don't you ask me that? In the first place, then, he began to make denials to your son, and to assert that he didn't owe three obols to you. Forthwith, Mnesilochus summoned to himself there our ancient host, the old gentleman, Pelago; in his presence, he at once showed the fellow the token, which you yourself

had given to your son to deliver to him.

NICOBULUS
Well — when he showed him the token?

CHRYSALUS
He began to say that it was counterfeit, and that it was not a true token; and how many reproaches he did utter against him so undeserving of them! and he said that in other matters he had committed forgery.

NICOBULUS
Have you not the gold? In the first place, I want that to be told me.

CHRYSALUS
Yes, after the Prætor had appointed delegates; being cast, at length compelled by force he paid down twelve hundred Philippeans.

NICOBULUS
He owed that much.

CHRYSALUS
Besides, listen to another struggle of his, as well, which he was desirous to enter on.

NICOBULUS
What, besides, as well? Oho! this will turn out now a regular hawk's nest. I've been deceived. I've entrusted my gold to an Autolycus for my host!

CHRYSALUS
Nay, but do you listen ——

NICOBULUS
Well, I wasn't aware of the disposition of my avaricious entertainer.

CHRYSALUS
Afterwards, at last we had got the gold, and embarked on board ship,

desirous for home. By chance, as I was sitting on the deck, while I was looking about me, at that moment I beheld a long bark being fitted out by this cheating knave.

NICOBULUS
Troth, I'm undone; that bark breaks my heart.

CHRYSALUS
This was held in partnership by your host and some pirates.

NICOBULUS
And that I should be such a blockhead as to trust him, when his very name of Archidemides cried aloud to me that he would deprive me of it, if I should entrust anything to him.

CHRYSALUS
This bark was lying in wait for our ship. I began to watch them, to see what business they were about. Meanwhile, from harbour our ship set sail. When we had fully left the harbour, these fellows began to follow with their oars; nor birds, nor winds more swiftly. As I discovered what scheme was being carried out, at once we dropped anchor. As they beheld us stopping, they began to keep their vessel back in harbour.

NICOBULUS
Wicked wretches, by my troth. What did you do at last?

CHRYSALUS
We returned again into harbour.

NICOBULUS
'Twas cleverly done by you. What after that?

CHRYSALUS
At nightfall they returned ashore.

NICOBULUS
Troth now, they intended to carry off the gold; they were attempting

that plan, no doubt.

CHRYSALUS
It didn't escape me; I discovered it: I was almost terrified to death by it. As I saw that a scheme was being laid against the gold, forthwith on this we came to this determination; the next day we carried away all the gold thence in their presence, openly and publicly, that they might know it was done.

NICOBULUS
Skilfully managed, i' faith. Tell me, what did they?

CHRYSALUS
Chopfallen at once, — soon as ever they saw us leaving the harbour with the gold, shaking their heads, they hauled their bark ashore. We deposited all the gold with Theotimus, who is a priest there of Ephesian Diana.

NICOBULUS
Who is this Theotimus?

CHRYSALUS
The son of Megalobyzus, who is now living at Ephesus, a man most dear to the Ephesians.

NICOBULUS
By my troth, he'll surely turn out very much more dear to me if he shall chouse me out of all that gold.

CHRYSALUS
But it is stowed away in the very temple itself of the Goddess Diana; there they keep guard at the public expense.

NICOBULUS
You kill me outright; much more safely would it have been kept in private hands. But haven't you brought any of the gold home here?

CHRYSALUS

O yes; but how much he has brought, I don't know.

NICOBULUS
How's that? — not know?

CHRYSALUS
Because Mnesilochus went privately by night to Theotimus; and didn't wish to entrust it to me, nor to any one in the ship. For that reason I don't know how much he has brought, but he hasn't brought very much.

NICOBULUS
Do you think it was even a half?

CHRYSALUS
By my troth, I know not; but I don't think it.

NICOBULUS
Does he bring a third part?

CHRYSALUS
Troth, I think not; but I do not know the truth. Indeed, I know nothing at all about the gold, except that I do know nothing about it. Now, you yourself must take a voyage there on board ship, to carry home this gold from Theotimus; and, hearkye —— *Takes him by the arm.*

NICOBULUS
What do you want?

CHRYSALUS
Take care and remember to carry your son's ring.

NICOBULUS
What need is there of the ring?

CHRYSALUS
Because that is the token agreed on with Theotimus, that the person

who brings it to him, to him he is to give up the gold.

NICOBULUS
I'll remember it, and you advise me well. But is this Theotimus rich?

CHRYSALUS
What, do you ask that? Why, hasn't he the soles fastened to his shoes with gold?

NICOBULUS
Why does he thus despise it?

CHRYSALUS
He has such immense riches; he doesn't know what to do with his gold.

NICOBULUS
I wish he'd give it me. But in whose presence was this gold delivered to Theotimus?

CHRYSALUS
In presence of the people; there's not a person in Ephesus but what knows it.

NICOBULUS
My son at least did wisely there, in entrusting that gold to a rich man to keep. From him it may be recovered even at a moment's notice.

CHRYSALUS
Aye, and look here, he'll never keep you waiting even thus much *shows his finger-nail* from receiving it on the very day you arrive there.

NICOBULUS
I thought that I had escaped a seafaring life, and that, at length, an old man of my years, I shouldn't be sailing about. But now I find that I'm not allowed to have the choice whether I would or no; 'tis my fine host Archidemides has done me this. Where, then, is my son,

Mnesilochus, at present?

CHRYSALUS
He has gone to the market-place to pay his respects to the Deities and his friends.

NICOBULUS
Then I'll go hence to meet him as soon as I can. *(Exit NICOBULUS.)*

CHRYSALUS
He's right well loaded, and carries more than his proper burden. Not so very badly has this web been commenced by me, that I may find means for the son of my master in his amour. I've managed it so, that he may take as much of the gold as he chooses, and give up to his father as much as he may like to give up. The old gentleman will be going hence to Ephesus to fetch his gold; here our life will be spent in a delicious manner, since the old man will leave me and Mnesilochus here, and not be taking us along with him. O! what a kick-up I shall be making here. But what's to be done, when the old gentleman shall have discovered this? When he shall have found out that he has made his journey thither to no purpose, and that we have misspent his gold, what will become of me after that? I' faith, I think upon his arrival he'll be changing my name, and at once be making me Crucisalus instead of Chrysalus. Troth, I'll run away, if there shall be a greater necessity for it. If I'm caught, I'll plague him for a punishment; if his rods are in the fields, still my back's at home. Now I'll be off, and tell my master's son this contrivance about the gold, and about his mistress Bacchis who has been found. *(Exit.)*

ACT III.

Enter LYDUS from the house of BACCHIS.

LYDUS
Open and throw back straightway this gate of hell, I do entreat. For, really, I do deem it nothing else; inasmuch as no one comes here but he whon all hopes have deserted, that he may yet be a decent person. Bacchis — no, not Bacchis is their name, but they are most determined Bacchanals. Avaunt from me, you sisters, who suck the blood of men. Richly and elegantly furnished is this house — for destruction. Soon as I beheld all this, at once I straight-way way betook myself to my heels. And ought I to carry these things concealed in secrecy? Ought I, Pistoclerus, to conceal from your father your excesses, or your misdeeds, or your places of resort? by which you are aiming to drive your father and myself, and your own self and all your friends, to disgrace, and shame, and ruin altogether, and to destroy us all. Within yourself you entertain no awe of either me or your own self on account of the deeds which you are doing by which you have made your own father and myself as well, your friends and your connexions, to be abettors in the disgrace of your excesses. Now, before you add this mischief to the rest, I am resolved at once to tell your parent. This instant from myself will I remove this blame, and shall disclose the matter to the old gentleman, that he may forthwith draw forth his son out from this loathsome pollution. *(Exit.)*

Enter MNESILOCHUS.

MNESILOCHUS
In many ways have I thought it over with myself, and thus I think it is; a man your friend, who is a friend such as the name imports — except the Gods — nothing does excel him. By fact have I experienced it so to be. For when I departed hence to Ephesus (’tis now almost two years ago it happened), from Ephesus I sent letters hither to my friend Pistoclerus, requesting that he would find out my

mistress Bacchis for me. I hear that he has found her, as my servant Chrysalus has brought me word. How aptly, too, has he framed a device against my father about the gold, that I may have abundance in my amour. I see 'tis right that I should make a due return. 'Tis better for you to be styled extravagant than ungrateful; but, i' faith, in my way of thinking at least, there's nothing more extravagant than the ungrateful man. The former the good will praise, the latter even the bad will censure. 'Twere better for an ill-doer to escape than for a benefactor to be deserted. For this reason, then, it behoves me to take the greater care; I needs must be on the watch. Now, Mnesilochus, the sample is on view, now the contest is being decided, whether you are or are not such as you ought to be; good or bad, of whichever kind; just or unjust, penurious or liberal, fretful or complying. Take you care, if you please, lest you let your servant exce. you in doing well. Whatever you shall prove, I warn you, you shall not be concealed. But see, I perceive my friend's father and his tutor coming this way. I'll listen what matter 'tis they are upon. *He retires aside.*

Enter LYDUS and PHILOXENUS.

LYDUS
I'll now make trial, whether your heart is sharpened by wisdom in your breast. Follow me.

PHILOXENUS
Whither shall I follow? Whither are you now leading me?

LYDUS
To her who has undone, utterly destroyed your single, only son.

PHILOXENUS
How now, Lydus; those are the wiser who mode-rate their passion. 'Tis less to be wondered at if this age does some of these things than if it does not do so; I, as well, did the same in my youth.

LYDUS
Ah me! ah me! this over-indulgence has proved his ruin. For had he

been without you, I should have had him trained up to moral rectitude; now, by reason of you and your trusting disposition, Pistoclerus has become abandoned.

MNESILOCHUS
aside . Immortal Gods! he names my friend. What means this, that Lydus is thus exciting his master, Pistoclerus?

PHILOXENUS
'Tis but a little time, Lydus, that a man has a desire to indulge his inclinations; the time will soon come, when he will hate himself even. Humour him; so that care is taken that he offends not beyond the line of honor, e'en suffer him.

LYDUS
I'll suffer him not, nor, for my part, while I'm alive, will I allow him to be corrupted. But you, who are pleading his cause for a son so profligate, was this same your own training, when you were a young man? I declare that for your first twenty years you had not even this much liberty, to move your foot out of the house even a finger's length away from your tutor. When it did happen so, this evil, too, was added to the evil; both pupil and preceptor were esteemed disgraced. Before the rising of the sun had you not come to the school for exercise, no slight punishment would you have had at the hands of the master of the school. There did they exercise themselves rather with running, wrestling, the quoit, the javelin, boxing, the ball, and leaping, rather than with harlots or with kissing; there did they prolong their lives, and not in secret-lurking holes. Then, when from the hippodrome and school of exercise you had returned home, clad in your belted frock, upon a stool by your masters would you sit; and there, when you were reading your book, if you made a mistake in a single syllable, your skin would be made as spotted as your nurse's gown.

MNESILOCHUS
(aside). I'm sorely vexed, to my sorrow, that on my account these things should be said about my friend. In his innocence he incurs this

suspicion for my sake.

PHILOXENUS
The manners, Lydus, now are altered.

LYDUS
That, for my part, I know full well. For formerly, a man used to receive public honors by the votes of the people, before he ceased to be obedient to one appointed his tutor. But now-a-days, before he is seven years old, if you touch a boy with your hand, at once the child breaks his tutor's head with his tablet. When you go to complain to the father, thus says the father to the child: "Be you my own dear boy, since you can defend yourself from an injury." The tutor then is called for; "Hallo! you old good-for-nothing, don't you be touching the child for this reason, that he has behaved so boldly;" and thus the despised tutor becomes just like a lantern with his oiled linen rags. Judgment pronounced, they go away thence. Can this preceptor then, on these terms, keep up his authority, if he himself is to be beaten the first?

MNESILOCHUS
aside . This is a severe accusation. So far as I understand his words, 'tis strange if Pistoclerus has never thumped Lydus with his fists.

LYDUS
seeing MNESILOCHUS . But who is it that I see standing here before the door? O Philoxenus, I would not prefer for myself to behold even the propitious Gods rather than him.

PHILOXENUS
Who's this?

LYDUS
Why, he's Mnesilochus, the friend of your son. He is not of a like turn of mind with him who reclines and takes his meals in brothels. Fortunate Nicobulus! who begot him for himself.

PHILOXENUS

(advancing). My greetings to you, Mnesilochus; I'm glad that you have arrived safe.

MNESILOCHUS
May the Gods favour you, Philoxenus.

LYDUS
He, now, was born at a lucky moment for his father; he goes to sea, attends to the interests of his family, takes care of the house, is obedient and attentive to the wish and commands of his father. He, when but a boy, was the companion of Pistoclerus in his boyhood; 'tis not by three days that he is the older in age, but his disposition is more improved by thirty years than that of the other.

PHILOXENUS
Beware of a mischief, and forbear to speak of him unjustly.

LYDUS
Hold your peace. You're a foolish man, who cannot bear to have him badly spoken of who does badly. But I would rather have him draw upon my mishaps than upon my savings.

PHILOXENUS
Why so?

LYDUS
Because, if he were to draw upon my mishaps, he would each day be making them less.

MNESILOCHUS
Why, Lydus, are you censuring your pupil, my friend?

LYDUS
Your friend is ruined.

MNESILOCHUS
May the Gods forbid it.

LYDUS
’Tis so as I say. And further, I myself saw it when he was undone; I am not censuring him from hearsay.

MNESILOCHUS
What has been done by him?

LYDUS
He is disgracefully doting upon a harlot.

MNESILOCHUS
Won’t you be silent now?

LYDUS
She, too, like a tide, most voraciously swallows all up, whenever she has touched any one.

MNESILOCHUS
Where does this woman live?

LYDUS
Here. *(Points to the house.)*

MNESILOCHUS
Whence do they say she comes?

LYDUS
From Samos.

MNESILOCHUS
What’s her name?

LYDUS
Bacchis.

MNESILOCHUS
You are wrong, Lydus; I know the whole affair, just as it is. You are blaming Pistoclerus without reason, and in his innocence. For he is

carefully performing the business enjoined on him by his friend and companion, his sincere well-wisher. Neither is he himself in love, nor do you suppose him so.

LYDUS
Is it necessary for him carefully to perform the business enjoined upon him by his friend in this fashion — for himself, sitting down, to hold a damsel in his lap who is kissing him? Can the business thus entrusted be in no way transacted unless ever and anon he is placing his hand upon the bosom of Bacchis, or never withdraws his lips from hers? But I'm ashamed to make mention of other things which I have seen him do; when, in my presence, I saw him take most unbecoming liberties with the person of Bacchis, and yet not be at all ashamed. What need of words is there? My pupil, your friend, his son *pointing to PHILOXENUS* , is ruined. For I say that he is ruined, whose modesty in fact is lost. What need of words is there? Had I been willing to wait only a little time, that I might have had a better opportunity of viewing him, I then should, I think, have seen more than would have been proper for me to see, and for him to do.

MNESILOCHUS
(aside). Friend, you have undone me. And ought I not to punish this woman with death? I should prefer that I should perish after some dreadful fashion. Isn't it the fact, you know not whom to deem faithful to yourself, or in whom to put your trust?

LYS.
Don't you see how much he grieves that your son, his friend, has been corrupted? and how he is afflicting himself with sorrow?

PHILOXENUS
Mnesilochus, I beg this of you, that you will influence his feelings and his disposition. Preserve for yourself a friend as well as a son for me.

MNESILOCHUS
I fain would do so.

LYDUS
to PHILOXENUS . Much better, too, would you leave me here together with him.

PHILOXENUS
Mnesilochus has cares, more than enough.

LYDUS
Rate the man soundly, who disgraces me, yourself his friend, and others, by his excesses.

PHILOXENUS
to MNESILOCHUS . Upon you do I impose all this responsibility. Lydus, follow me this way.

LYDUS
I follow you. *(Exeunt PHILOXENUS and LYDUS.)*

MNESILOCUHS, alone.

MNESILOCHUS
Which of the two now I should think to be my greater enemy, my companion or Bacchis, is extremely doubtful. Has she chosen him in preference? Let her keep him, that's the best. Surely, by my troth, she has done this to her own loss. For never let any one entrust to me aught that is sacred, if I don't by an abundant example, and —— assuredly love her. I'll make her not to say that she has got hold of a person to make a fool of. But I'll go home now and pilfer something from my father. Even to such straits will I force her, that beggary shall be the lot of —— my father. But do I really now possess my wits with a mind unimpaired, who am in this fashion prating here of these things that are to come to pass? I' faith, I'm of opinion that I'm in love, inasmuch as I know for sure I am. But still, than that she, from my abundance, should, by the scraping of a single feather, grow the richer, I'd rather outvie a beggar in begging. Never, by Heaven, while I live, shall she make a laughing-stock of me. For I have made up my mind to pay down all the gold at once to my father. Upon me, therefore, needy and penniless, shall she fawn, at the time, when it

shall be for her advantage not a whit the more than if she were saying her pretty things to a dead man at his tomb. Beyond a doubt, 'tis my fixed determination to give the gold up to my father. Likewise, I'll entreat that, for my sake, my father won't hurt Chrysalus, nor censure him at all on my account with respect to the gold which he has deceived him about. For 'tis right that I should have a care for him, who, for my sake, has told this falsehood. *(To some ATTENDANTS)* Do you follow me, *Goes into his father's house.*

Enter PISTOCLERUS from the house of BACCHIS.

PISTOCLERUS
speaking to BACCHIS as he comes out . Before other matters, Bacchis, will I give place to what you enjoin me, that I find out Mnesilochus, and bring him, together with myself, to you. But at this my mind is surprised, if my messenger has reached him, what it is that delays him. I'll go into his house here, and see if perchance he's at home.

Enter MNESILOCHUS from his father's house.

MNESILOCHUS
as he enters . I've given up to my father all the gold. Now could I wish that she should meet me, after I am penniless, this fair one so scornful of me. Yet with what great difficulty did he grant me a pardon for Chrysalus. But I prevailed on him at last that he wouldn't be at all angry with him.

PISTOCLERUS
apart . Isn't this my friend?

MNESILOCHUS
apart . Isn't this my foe that I see?

PISTOCLERUS
For sure 'tis he.

MNESILOCHUS

’Tis he.

PISTOCLERUS
apart . I’ll go to meet him, and I’ll mend my pace. *Aloud.* Health to you, Mnesilochus!

MNESILOCHUS
Hail!

PISTOCLERUS
As you are arrived safe from abroad, a dinner must be given.

MNESILOCHUS
A dinner pleases me not, which excites my choler.

PISTOCLERUS
Has any vexation befallen you on your arrival?

MNESILOCHUS
Aye, and a very grievous one.

PISTOCLERUS
From what quarter?

MNESILOCHUS
From a person whom heretofore I had supposed to be my friend.

PISTOCLERUS
Many live after that manner and method, who, when you think them to be friends, are found false with their deceitfulness, strong in their talking, slothful in their doing, of faith infirm. Not one is there whom they don’t envy on their enjoying prosperity; through their own indolence do they themselves take right good care that no envy is directed against them.

MNESILOCHUS
By my troth, you surely understand their ways most thoroughly. But still this one misfortune do they find from their bad disposition; they

are the friends of no one, while they themselves are all at enmity against themselves; and these, while they are deceiving themselves, in their foolishness imagine that others are deceived. Just so is he whom I supposed to be as much a friend to me as I am to my own self. He, so far as in him lay, has taken all care to do whatever injury he could towards me, to turn all my own resources against me.

PISTOCLERUS
This same must me a bad man.

MNESILOCHUS
I judge that so he is.

PISTOCLERUS
Troth now, prithee, do tell me who it is.

MNESILOCHUS
He lives on good terms with yourself. But were he not; so, I would entreat you to do him whatever harm you could do.

PISTOCLERUS
Only tell me the person, who he is; if I don't do him an injury, some way or other, do you say that I'm the greatest of cowards.

MNESILOCHUS
The person's a bad one, but he's your friend, i' faith.

PISTOCLERUS
So much the rather, then, tell me who he is. In good sooth, I set no value on the esteem of a worthless person.

MNESILOCHUS
I appear, then, not to be able to avoid disclosing to you his name. Pistoclerus, you have utterly undone me, your friend.

PISTOCLERUS
How's that?

MNESILOCHUS
How's that? Did I not send you a letter from Ephesus about my mistress, that you should find her out for me?

PISTOCLERUS
I own you did; and I have discovered her.

MNESILOCHUS
How now? Was there not a choice for you of other Courtesans in Athens, for you to form engagements with, instead of with her whom I had recommended to your care? Could you yourself begin to love, and to contrive an injury against myself?

PISTOCLERUS
Are you in your senses?

MNESILOCHUS
I have found out the whole affair from your tutor; don't deny it. You've ruined me.

PISTOCLERUS
What, still upbraiding me without reason with these rebukes of yours?

MNESILOCHUS
Why? You're in love with Bacchis.

PISTOCLERUS
But look you, two persons of the name of Bacchis are living here in this house.

MNESILOCHUS
How, two?

PISTOCLERUS
Aye, and the two are sisters.

MNESILOCHUS

You are now designedly telling idle stories.

PISTOCLERUS
In fine, if you persist in thinking there's but little confidence in me, I'll take you upon my shoulders, and carry you hence into their house.

MNESILOCHUS
Well, I'll go; but stay a moment.

PISTOCLERUS
I will not stay, and you shall not be holding me under a false suspicion.

MNESILOCHUS
I follow you then. *(They go into the house of BACCHIS.)*

ACT IV.

Enter a PARASITE and a BOY.

PARASITE
Of a debauched and unscrupulous fellow am I the Parasite — a Captain, who has brought his mistress with him from Samos. Now he has ordered me to go to her, and make enquiry whether she will pay back the gold, or whether she will depart together with him. You, boy, who have for some time been with her, whichever of these is the house, do you knock. Go to the door forthwith. *The BOY goes to knock.* Are you coming back from there, you hangdog? How the graceless scoundrel does knock! You can gobble up a loaf three feet wide, and yet you don't know how to knock at a door. *He calls out and knocks violently.* Is there any one in-doors? Hallo! is there any one here? Does any one open this door? Who's coming out?

Enter PISTOCLERUS from the house.

PISTOCLERUS
What's the matter? What's this knocking? Why, what the confounded torment possesses you, to be exerting your strength in this fashion on another person's door? You've almost broken the door down. What do you want now?

PARASITE
Young gentleman, my respects.

PISTOCLERUS
And my respects. But whom are you looking for?

PARASITE
For Bacchis.

PISTOCLERUS
But which of them?

PARASITE
Of that I know nothing, only it's Bacchis. In a few words, the Captain, Cleomachus, has sent me to her, either for her to pay back the tyro hundred golden Philippeans, or to go hence this day, together with him, to Elatia.

PISTOCLERUS
She doesn't go: she says she shan't go. Begone, and take back this message — she loves another person, and not him. Take yourself off from the house.

PARASITE
You're too hasty.

PISTOCLERUS
And would you know now hasty I am? By my faith, your phiz isn't far off from a mishap; so much are these teeth-crackers *looking at his fists* longing in my fists.

PARASITE
aside . So far as I understand his words, 'tis a warning to me, lest he should knock my nut-crackers out of my jaws. *To PISTOCLERUS.* At your own peril, I'll tell him this.

PISTOCLERUS
What do you say?

PARASITE
I'll tell him that which you bade me.

PISTOCLERUS
Who are you? Tell me.

PARASITE
I'm the skill of his body

PISTOCLERUS
He needs must be a scampish fellow, who has got so worthless a

skin.

PARASITE
He'll be coming here, swollen up with wrath.

PISTOCLERUS
I wish he may burst.

PARASITE
about to go . Is there anything you want?

PISTOCLERUS
Be off; you must do so this instant.

PARASITE
Good-bye, teeth-cracker. *Exit.* PISTOC. And you, skin of his body, good-bye! This matter has come to such a point, that what advice to give my friend about his mistress, I know not; who, in his pet, has given up all the gold to his father, and not a coin is there that may be paid to the Captain. But I'll step aside, for the door makes a noise. O, here's Mnesilochus coming out, and pensive, too. *He stands apart.*

Enter MNESILOCHUS from the house of BACCHIS.

MNESILOCHUS
Insolent, of a froward, passionate, ungovernable, inconsiderate disposition, without reason and moderation, am I; without fine principles of rectitude and honor, hard of belief, powerless to control my passions, born of a temper ill-disposed, unamiable and ungracious is my life In fine, I am that which I could wish others to be. There's not a person more worthless, or more unworthy for the Gods to bless, or for men to love or to associate with. 'Tis more just that I should have enemies than friends— 'tis more reasonable that the bad should give me their assistance than the good. There's not a person more deserving of all the reproaches that are befitting worthless men, than I, who have given up to my father the money that was in my power. Could this be believed by any one whatever? Am I not a madman, who have miserably undone myself and the

device of Chrysalus?

PISTOCLERUS
aside . He must now be consoled by me; I'll accost him. *Aloud.* Hallo, Mnesilochus! what's the matter?

MNESILOCHUS
I'm ruined.

PISTOCLERUS
May the Gods grant better things!

MNESILOCHUS
I'm ruined.

PISTOCLERUS
Won't you hold your tongue, simpleton?

MNESILOCHUS
Hold my tongue?

PISTOCLERUS
You are not now quite right in your senses.

MNESILOCHUS
I'm undone. Many sharp and poignant woes are now arising in my breast. Did I not put faith in that accusation? Without any cause was I angry with you.

PISTOCLERUS
Come, come, do have a good heart.

MNESILOCHUS
Whence have it? A dead man is of more value than I am.

PISTOCLERUS
The Captain's Parasite came here, just now, to fetch the gold hence. I drove the fellow away from this door and from this fair one, and

packed him off through my harsh language.

MNESILOCHUS
But of what service is that to me? Wretch that I am, what shall I do? I have nothing; and he certainly will carry her off.

PISTOCLERUS
By my faith, if I had the means, I'd engage not.

MNESILOCHUS
I know you'd give it me; I know your ways; and were you not in love, I should now have the very greatest possible confidence in your assistance. At present, you yourself have more than enough of your own business, for me to suppose that you, who are in want yourself; are able to give me any assistance.

PISTOCLERUS
Do but hold your tongue: some Divinity will favour us.

MNESILOCHUS.
Nonsense. *Moves as if going.*

PISTOCLERUS
Do stay *Takes hold of him.*

MNESILOCHUS
What's the matter?

PISTOCLERUS
Why, I see Chrysalus here, your main resource.

Enter CHRYSALUS, at a distance.

CHRYSALUS
to himself . It's right this man *pointing to himself* should be worth his weight in gold: it's fair that a statue of gold should be erected for him. For, this day, two exploits have I achieved; with twofold spoils have I been graced. So cleverly have I gulled my elder master this

day, that he has been made a fool of. The crafty old blade, by my crafty tricks, have I compelled and constrained to believe me in everything. Then, for the son of the old gentleman, my master here in love, together with whom I drink, with whom I eat and go a-courting, I have procured regal and golden trea sures, that he may take from thence at home, and not go seeking abroad. Those Parmenos and those Syruses, please me not, who filch some two or three minae from their masters. There's nothing more worthless than a servant without skill — worthless, if he has not a breast mightily well-stocked, so that, whenever there is necessity, he may draw his supply from his own breast. No one can be a person well to do ... unless he understands both how to do good and how to do evil. With rogues he must be a rogue; with thieves let him filch whatever he can. It befits him who is truly wise, to be a person that can shift his very skin. Good with the good let him be, bad with the bad: just as things are, so let him ever frame his humour. But I should like to know how much gold my master has taken for himself, and what he has given up to his father. If he is a prudent person, he has made a Hercules of his parent: he has given him the tenth part, and has kept back nine for himself. But, see! the person whom I was looking for; he meets me most opportunely. *To MNESILOCHUS.* Has any of your money fallen down, my master, that thus, in silence, you are looking down upon the ground? Why do I see you two sad and sorrowful? I like it not; and 'tis not without some reason. Are you going now to give me any answer?

MNESILOCHUS
I'm undone, Chrysalus.

CHRYSALUS
Perhaps you took too little of the gold.

MNESILOCHUS
How, a plague, too little? Why, yes, indeed, a very great deal less than too little.

CHRYSALUS

Why the mischief then, simpleton, since by my skill an opportunity was procured for that very purpose, that you might take as much as you pleased, did you thus take it up with the tips of two fingers? Or, didn't you know how rarely an opportunity of that kind presents itself to a person?

MNESILOCHUS
You are mistaken.

CHRYSALUS
Why, surely, 'tis you yourself that were mistaken, when you dip't your fingers in not deep enough.

MNESILOCHUS
I' faith, you'd upbraid me more than now you do, if you knew the matter better. I'm undone.

CHRYSALUS
My mind is now foreboding further mischief from those words.

MNESILOCHUS
I'm ruined.

CHRYSALUS
How so?

MNESILOCHUS
Because I've given all up to my father, with every particle of it.

CHRYSALUS
Given it up?

MNESILOCHUS
Given it up.

CHRYSALUS
What, all?

MNESILOCHUS
Every jot.

CHRYSALUS
We are done for. How came it into your mind to do this deed so foul?

MNESILOCHUS
I had a suspicion, Chrysalus, by reason of a charge, that Bacchis and he *(pointing to PISTOCLERUS)* had been playing me false; for that reason, in my anger, I gave up all the gold to my father.

CHRYSALUS
What did you say to your father when you gave up the gold?

MNESILOCHUS
That I had at once received this gold from his host, Archidemides.

CHRYSALUS
Eh! by that speech you have this day consigned Chrysalus to the torture; for, when he shall set eyes on me, the old gentleman will carry me off that instant to the executioner.

MNESILOCHUS
I've besought my father.

CERYS.
I suppose, to do, in fact, the thing that I was speaking of?

MNESILOCHUS
Nay, not to punish you, or to blame you at all on account of this business. And with some difficulty I've prevailed. Now, Chrysalus, this must be your care.

CHRYSALUS
What do you wish should be my care?

MNESILOCHUS
That once again you should make a second inroad upon the old

gentleman. Contrive, devise, invent whatever you please; frame your plans, so that this day you may cleverly deceive the old man unawares, and carry off the gold.

CHRYSALUS
It scarcely seems possible to be done.

MNESILOCHUS
Set about it, and you'll easily effect it.

CHRYSALUS
How the plague "easily," for me, whom he has this moment caught out in a lie? Should I entreat him not to believe me at all, he would not venture even to believe me in that.

MNESILOCHUS
Aye, and if you were to hear what things he said about you in my presence.

CHRYSALUS
What did he say?

MNESILOCHUS
That if you were to say that this sun was the sun, he would believe it was the moon, and that that is the night which is now the day.

CHRYSALUS
By my troth, I'll bamboozle the old chap right well this very day, so that he shan't have said that for nothing.

PISTOCLERUS
Now, what would you have us do?

CHRYSALUS
Why, nothing, except that I beg you'll still love on. As for the rest, ask of me as much gold as you please; I'll find it you. Of what use is it for me to have the name of Chrysalus, unless I give proofs by fact? But now, tell me, Mnesilochus, how much gold is requisite for you.

MNESILOCHUS
There's occasion for two hundred pieces at once, to pay the Captain for Bacchis.

CHRYSALUS
I'll find it you.

MNESILOCHUS
Then we have need of some for current expenses.

CHRYSALUS
Aye, aye, I wish us to do each thing deliberately; when I've accomplished the one, then I'll set about the other. First, for the two hundred pieces, I shall direct my engine of war against the old gentleman. If with that engine I batter down the tower and the outworks, straight at the gate that instant I'll attack the old town and the new one; if I take it, then carry to your friends the gold in baskets, just as your heart wishes.

PISTOCLERUS
Our hearts are with you, Chrysalus.

CHRYSALUS
Now, do you go in-doors to Bacchis, Pistoclerus, and quickly bring out —

PISTOCLERUS
What?

CHRYSALUS
A pen, some wax, tablets, and some cord.

PISTOCLERUS
I'll have them here this instant. *Goes into the house.*

MNESILOCHUS
What now are you about to do? Do tell me that.

CHRYSALUS
Let a breakfast be prepared; there will be you two, and your mistress will make a third with you.

MNESILOCHUS
Just as you say.

CHRYSALUS
Pistoclerus has no mistress?

MNESILOCHUS
O yes, she's here; he's in love with the one sister, I with the other, both of the name of Bacchis.

CHRYSALUS
What were you going to say? MNES. This; how we are to manage.

CHRYSALUS
Where are your couches laid out?

MNESILOCHUS
Why o you ask that?

CHRYSALUS
So the matter stands; I wish to be informed. You know not what I am about to do, nor what a great exploit I shall attempt.

MINES.
Give me your hand, and follow me close, to the door. Peep in.
CHRYSALUS looks in at the door of the house of BACCHIS.

CHRYSALUS
Hurra! 'Tis a very pretty place, this, and exactly as I could wish it to be. *Re-enter PISTOCLERUS, with pen and tablets.*

PISTOCLERUS
The things that you ordered — what's ordered for a good purpose is forthwith done by the obedient.

CHRYSALUS
What have you brought?

PISTOCLERUS
Everything that you bade me bring.

CHRYSALUS
to MNESILOCHUS . Do you take the pen at once, and these tablets.

MNESILOCHUS
taking them . What then? CHRYS. Write there what I shall bid you; for I wish you to write for this reason, that your father may know the hand when he reads it. Write now.

MNESILOCHUS
What shall I write?

CHRYSALUS
Health to your father, in your own language. *MNESILOCHUS writes.*

PISTOCLERUS
Suppose he were to write “disease and death,” in preference, that would be much better.

CHRYSALUS
Don’t you interrupt us.

MNESILOCHUS
What you have ordered is now written on the wax.

CHRYSALUS
Tell me in what terms.

MNESILOCHUS
“Mnesilochus sends health to his father.”

CHRYSALUS
Write this, too, quickly: “My father, Chrysalus is always and

everywhere talking at me, and in no measured terms, because I gave you up the gold, and because I did not cheat you of it."
MNESILOCHUS writes.

PISTOCLERUS
Stop till he has written it.

CHRYSALUS
It befits the hand of a lover to be active.

PISTOCLERUS
I' faith, that hand is more active by far at lavishing than at writing.

MNESILOCHUS
Say on; that's written down.

CHRYSALUS
"Now, my dear father, do you henceforth be on your guard against him, for he is forming knavish plans to deprive you of the gold, and has declared that he will have it beyond a doubt." Write legibly.

MINE.
You only dictate. *Writes.* CHRYS. "And he promises that he will give this gold to me, for me to give away to naughty women, and to consume it and live like a Greek in dens of infamy. But, father, do you take care that he does not impose on you this day; I entreat you, do beware."

MNESILOCHUS
Only say on.

CHRYSALUS
Just write on, then.

MNESILOCHUS
Only say what I am to write

CHRYSALUS

MNESILOCHUS writing . “But, father, what you promised me I beg that you will remember, that you will not beat him, but keep him in chains at your house at home.” Do you give me the wax and cord forthwith. Come, fasten it, and seal it in an instant.

MNESILOCHUS
sealing the tablets . Prithee, what use is there in this writing after such a fashion, that he is to give no credence to you, and to keep you in chains at home?

CHRYSALUS
Because it pleases me so. Can’t you possibly take care of your own self, and have no thought about me? In confidence in myself I undertook the task, and at my own peril do I carry on the matter.

MNESILOCHUS
You say what’s true.

CHRYSALUS
Give me the tablets.

MNESILOCHUS
giving them . Take them.

CHRYSALUS
Give attention now; Mnesilochus, and you, Pistoclerus, do you take care that each of you goes at once and reclines on his couch with his mistress; so ’tis requisite; and on that same spot where the couches are now laid, do you forthwith commence to carouse.

PISTOCLERUS
Anything else?

CHRYSALUS
This, and this especially: when you shall have once taken your places together, don’t you arise anyhow, until the signal shall be given by me.

PISTOCLERUS
O skilful commander!

CHRYSALUS
You ought by this time to have taken your second draught.

MNESILOCHUS
Capital; let's go.

CHRYSALUS
Do you take care of your duty, and I'll do mine. *MNESILOCHUS and PISTOCLERUS go into the house.*

CHRYSALUS, alone.

CHRYSALUS
A tremendously great business am I undertaking, and I have my fears how in this one day I may accomplish it. But now I have occasion for the old blade to be fierce and savage at me. For it suits not this plan of mine that the old fellow should be calm when he has beheld me in his presence. I'll turn him about this day, finely, if I live. I'll have him parched as well as ever pea was parched. I'll walk before the door, that when he comes out, at once as he comes up, I may put the letters in his hand. *Stands near the door of BACCHIS.*

Enter NICOBULUS, at a distance.

NICOBULUS
This is a matter of great vexation to me, that Chrysalus has thus escaped me this day.

CHRYSALUS
aside . I'm all right: the old fellow is in a passion. Now's my time for me to accost my man.

NICOBULUS
Who speaks hard by? *Looking round.* Why surely this is Chrysalus, I think.

CHRYSALUS
aside . I'll accost him. NICO. My honest servant, hail to you. What's doing now? How soon do I set sail for Ephesus, to bring back the gold home from Theotimus? What — silent? I swear by all the Gods, if I didn't love my son so much as to wish everything done for him that he desires ... that your sides should be wealed now right well with rods, and that in irons at the mill you should be lingering out your life. I've learnt of Mnesilochus all your wicked pranks.

CHRYSALUS
Has he accused me? 'Tis very good; I am a bad one, I am a cursed one — a wicked one. Only reflect upon the matter. I'll utter not one word.

NICOBULUS
What? Hangdog, do you even threaten me?

CHRYSALUS
You'll find out before long what sort of man he is. He ordered me just now to carry this letter to you. He requested that that which is there written may be done.

NICOBULUS
Give it me,

CHRYSALUS
Take notice of the seal *Gives him the tablets.*

NICOBULUS
I know it. Where is he himself?

CHRYSALUS
I don't know. I ought to know nothing now; I've forgotten everything. I know that I'm a slave; I know not even that which I do know. *Aside.* Now from the springe this thrush is catching at the worm; he'll be finely noosed this day, so well I've set the snare.

NICOBULUS

Stay here but a moment; I'll return to you directly, Chrysalus. *Goes into his house.*

CHRYSALUS
How he does dissemble with me; how ignorant I am of the business he's about. He has gone to fetch slaves from in-doors to bind me. The ship speeds prosperously on; finely, too, is this craft boarding it. But I'll hold my tongue, for I hear the door opening.

Re-enter NICOBULUS, with SLAVES carrying fetters.

NICOBULUS
Artamo, do you fasten the hands of that fellow this very instant. *The SLAVES bind him.*

CHRYSALUS
What have I done?

NICOBULUS
Pitch your fist into him if he mutters a word. *To CHRYSALUS, pointing at the tablets.* What does this letter say?

CHRYSALUS
Why do you ask me? As I received it from him, so I've brought it sealed to you.

NICOBULUS
Come now, you rascal, have you not shamefully abused my son in your talk, because he gave me up that gold, and said that you would still take that gold away from me by some knavish trick?

CHRYSALUS
Have I said so?

NICOBULUS
You have.

CHRYSALUS

What person is there, who says that I've said so?

NICOBULUS
Hold your tongue. No person says so; this letter which you have brought me accuses you. See, 'tis this that requests you to be chained. *Points to the open tablets.*

CHRYSALUS
Ah! your son has been making a Bellerophon of me; I myself brought this letter, for the purpose that I might be bound. Be it so.

NICOBULUS
This I am doing for this reason, because you persuade my son to live like a Greek with you, you thrice-dotted villain.

CHRYSALUS
aside . O fool, fool, you know not that you are at this moment on sale; and that you are standing on the very stone as the auctioneer puts you up.

NICOBULUS
overhearing him . Answer me; who is selling me?

CHRYSALUS
He whom the Gods favour dies in youth, while he is in his health, has his senses and judgment sound. This person *(pointing to NICOBULUS)* , if any God had favoured him, ought to have been dead more than ten years — aye, more than twenty years ago. 'Tis for long, he has walked, a nuisance, on the earth; so devoid is he of either judgment or sense. He is of as much value as a rotten mushroom is.

NICOBULUS
Do you think that I am a nuisance to the earth? Away with him in-doors, and tie him tightly to the post. You shall never take away any gold from here.

CHRYSALUS

No, but you'll soon be giving it me.

NICOBULUS
I, give it you?

CHRYSALUS
You'll be entreating me, too, of your own accord to receive it, when you shall come to know this accuser of mine, in how great danger and in what a dreadful situation he is. Then will you be offering his liberty to Chrysalus; but I certainly shan't accept it.

NICOBULUS
Tell me, source of mischief, tell me, in what danger is my son Mnesilochus.

CHRYSALUS
Follow me this way; I'll soon let you know.

NICOBULUS
Where on earth shall I follow you?

CHRYSALUS
Only three steps.

NICOBULUS
Aye, ten even.

CHRYSALUS
Come, then, Artamo, do you open you this door out a very little way; softly, don't make it creak. *The door of the house of BACCHIS is opened.* That's enough. Now, step you hither. *To NICOBULUS, who looks in.* Do you see the entertainment?

NICOBULUS
still looking in . I see Pistoclerus and Bacchis right opposite.

CHRYSALUS
Who are upon that other couch?

NICOBULUS
looking on the other side . Wretch that I am, I'm undone. CHRYS. Do you recognize that person?

NICOBULUS
I do recognize him.

CHRYSALUS
Now tell me, if you please, does that woman seem of handsome appearance?

NICOBULUS
Very much so.

CHRYSALUS
Well, do you take her to be a courtesan?

NICOBULUS
Why not?

CHRYSALUS
You are mistaken.

NICOBULUS
Who is she then, prithee?

CHRYSALUS
You'll find out from me. indeed, you'll get no more information to-day.

Enter CLEOMACHUS, at a distance.

CLEOMACHUS
aloud . Is this Mnesilochus, the son of Nicobulus, by force to detain my own mistress? What proceeding is this?

NICOBULUS
Who's this?

CHRYSALUS
aside . This Captain's opportunely come for me.

CLEOMACHUS
He doesn't consider that I am a soldier, but a woman, who cannot defend myself and mine. But may neither Bellona nor Mars ever put confidence in me, if I don't put him out of life, if I meet him, or if I don't make him lose possession of his existence.

NICOBULUS
Chrysalus, who's this that's threatening my son?

CHRYSALUS
This is the husband of that woman with whom he is now reclining.

NICOBULUS
What! The husband?

CHRYSALUS
The husband, I say.

NICOBULUS
Prithee, is she married then?

CHRYSALUS
You'll know before very long.

NICOBULUS
Wretch that I am; I'm utterly undone.

CHRYSALUS
How now? Does Chrysalus seem such a villain to you? Come, chain me now, and do listen to your son. Didn't I tell you that you would discover what sort of person he is?

NICOBULUS
What shall I do now?

CHRYSALUS
Order me at once to be released, if you please; for, if I'm not released, he'll just now be overpowering the young man in our presence.

CLEOMACHUS
There's no gain that I should this day take so much delight in making, as I should in falling upon him as he reclines with her, so that I might kill them both.

CHRYSALUS
to NICOBULUS . Don't you hear what he says Why don't you order me to be released?

NICOBULUS
to the SLAVES . Unbind him. I'm ruined; wretch that I am! I'm in a dreadful fright.

CLEOMACHUS
Then I'd make her, who publicly puts up her person for sale, not to say that she has got a person for her to laugh at.

CHRYSALUS
to NICOBULUS . You may make terms with him for a little money.

NICOBULUS
Make terms, then, I beg, for what you like; so that he mayn't, in our presence, fall upon the young man, or kill him outright.

CLEOMACHUS
Unless the two hundred Philippeans are repaid to me at once, I'll this instant swallow the lives of them both outright.

NICOBULUS
to CHRYSALUS . Make terms with him, if you can; prithee, do make haste; agree for any sum you like.

CHRYSALUS

I'll go, and do it carefully. *Goes up to CLEOMACHUS.* Why are you exclaiming so?

CLEOMACHUS
Where's your master?

CHRYSALUS
Nowhere; I don't know. Do you wish the two hundred pieces to be promised you at once, so as to make no riot or disturbance here?

CLEOMACHUS
There's nothing that I would desire more.

CHRYSALUS
And that I may heap many a curse upon you?

CLEOMACHUS
Just as you please.

CHRYSALUS
aside . How the villain does cringe. *To CLEOMACHUS.* This is the father of Mnesilochus: follow rme; he shall promise it you. Do you ask for the gold. As to the rest, a word's enough. *They go up to NICOBULUS.*

NICOBULUS
What has been done?

CHRYSALUS
I've struck the bargain for two hundred Philippeans.

NICOBULUS
Well done! Goddess Salvation, thou hast saved me. Well, how soon am I to say I'll pay it?

CHRYSALUS
to CLEOMACHUS . Do you ask it of him; and *to NICOBULUS* do you promise it him.

NICOBULUS
I promise it. *To CLEOMACHUS.* Come, ask me.

CLEOMACHUS
Will you give me two hundred golden Philippean pieces, lawful money?

CHRYSALUS
"They shall be given," say: do answer him.

NICOBULUS
I'll give them.

CHRYSALUS
Well, now, filthy fellow is there anything owing to you? Why are you plaguing him? Why are you frightening him about death? Both I and he wish you every ill luck. If you have a sword, still we have a spit at home; with which, in fact, if you provoke me, I'll make you more full of holes than a rat's skin when caught in a trap. I' faith, for my part, some time since I found out what suspicion it was that tormented you; namely, that he was with that wife of yours.

CLEOMACHUS
Yes; and so he is.

CHRYSALUS
So may Jupiter, Juno, Ceres, Minerva, Hope, Latona, Ops, Virtue, Venus, Castor, Pollux, Mars, Mercury, Hercules, Summanus, the Sun, Saturn, and all the Deities, prosper me, he neither reclines with her, nor walks, nor kisses, nor does that which is wont to be reported.

NICOBULUS
aside . How he does swear! He's saving me, however, by his perjury.

CLEOMACHUS
Where then, at this moment, is Mnesilochus?

CHRYSALUS

His father has sent him into the country. And she has gone hence to the citadel, to see the temple of Minerva. The door's open now; go in, and see if he's there.

CLEOMACHUS
I'll be off to the Forum next.

CHRYSALUS
Or rather, by my troth, to very perdition.

CLEOMACHUS
Am I to demand this gold to-day?

CHRYSALUS
Demand it, and go hang yourself; don't you suppose, you worthless fellow, that we shall be entreating of you. *Exit CLEOMACHUS.* He's taken himself off. Permit me, master, I entreat you by the immortal Gods, to go in-doors here to your son. *Pointing to the house of BACCHIS.*

NICOBULUS
But why go in there?

CHRYSALUS
That with many words I may rebuke him, since after this fashion he has been going on this way.

NICOBULUS
Well, I beg you will do so, Chrysalus; and I entreat you not to spare him in your talking to him.

CHRYSALUS
And do you instruct even myself? Isn't it sufficient, if this day he shall hear from me more harsh things than ever Clinias heard from Demetrius? *Goes into the house of BACCHIS.*

NICOBULUS
This servant of mine is very like a running eye; if you have it not,

you don't wish for it or desire it; if you have it, you can't keep off from rubbing it. But if he hadn't, by lucky chance, been here to-day, the Captain would have surprised Mnesilochus with his wife, and have killed him as an adulterer detected in the fact. Now, in a manner have I ransomed my son with the two hundred Philippeans which I have promised to give to the Captain; which, however, I shall not rashly pay him down, before I have met with my son. By my troth, I'll never rashly give credence in anything to Chrysalus. But I have a mind even once again to read over this letter; 'tis right that when a letter is sealed we should give credence to it. *Goes into his house.*

Enter CHRYSALUS from the house of BACCHIS.

CHRYSALUS

The two brothers, the sons of Atreus, are said to have done a most famous deed, when, with arms, and horses, and an army, and with chosen warriors, and with ships a thousand in number, after the tenth year, they subdued Pergamus, the native land of Priam, founded by hands divine. Not more decidedly did it fall by the engine of war, than I shall storm my master here, without a fleet, and without an army and so great array of soldiers. I have won, I have taken by storm this gold from his father for my master's son, in his amour. Now, before the old man comes here, I wish to lament until he does come out. O Troy! O my country! O Pergamus! O Priam! old man, you are undone, you, who'll be wretchedly and shockingly choused out of four hundred golden Philippeans. For those tablets, sealed on the one side and on the other, they are not tablets, but the horse which the Greeks sent, of wood. Pistoclerus is the Epeus; from him were these received. Mnesilochus is the Simon left behind. Behold him! not in Achilles' tomb, but on a couch he reclines: he has Bacchis with him; just as the other formerly had the fire with which to give the signal; so now does she inflame himself. I am Ulysses, by whose advice they do these things. Then, the characters which there are written, are the soldiers in this horse, armed and of high courage. So even thus far has the matter prospered with me. This horse, too, will be making his attack, not on a citadel, but on a coffer A ruin, a destruction, a cleaner-out of the old man's gold, will this horse prove

this day. To this silly old man of ours, in fact, I give the name of Ilium; the Captain is Menelaüs; I, Agamemnon; I, too, am Ulysses, the son of Laërtes; Mnesilochus is Alexander, who will be the destruction of his father's fortunes; he has borne off the Helen, on whose account I am now carrying on the siege of Ilium. For there I have heard say that Ulysses was both bold and full of mischief, just as I am. I have been detected in my tricks — he, discovered in a beggar's guise, had almost perished, while he was spying out there the doings of the Trojans. Similarly has it happened to myself to-day. I have been bound, but by my devices I have redeemed myself; he, too, preserved himself by artifice. I have heard that there were three destinies attending Troy, which were fatal to it; if the statue should be lost from the citadel; whereas the second was the death of Troilus; the third was when the upper lintel of the Phrygian gate should be demolished. Just so are there three fatalities for this Troy of ours, corresponding with those three; for, first of all, when, a short time since, as I told our old gentleman the lying story about his host, and the gold, and the bark, then, that instant, did I steal the statue from the citadel. And even then two fatalities were remaining, and no further had I taken this city. Afterwards, when I carried the letter to the old man, then I killed my Troilus. When he supposed, just now, that Mnesilochus was with the Captain's wife, from that, with difficulty, did I disengage myself. And that danger do I compare to what they say, how that Ulysses, recognized by Helen, was betrayed to Hecuba. But as, in olden time, by his coaxing arts, he liberated himself from her, and persuaded her to let him go, so I, by my devices, have rescued myself from the danger, and have deceived the old man. Afterwards, I engaged with the blustering Captain, who, unarmed, takes cities with his words, and there I repulsed my man. Then I engaged in fight with the old gentleman; straightway by one lying device did I vanquish him; by one blow, in a moment, did I take the spoils away from him. He now will give the two hundred Philippean pieces to the Captain, which he has promised that he will give. ... Now, I have occasion for another two hundred, to be distributed when Ilium is taken, that there may be the usual draught of honeyed wine with which the soldiers may celebrate their triumph. But this Priam is far superior to him of old. Not fifty sons only has

he, but four hundred, and all choice ones, without a blemish; all these this day will I cut off at two single blows. Now, if there were any purchaser for this Priam of ours, I would sell the old fellow in the lump, whom I have on sale the moment that J shall have taken the city. But, lo! I see our Priam standing before the door; I'll go and speak to him.

Enter NICOBULUS from his house.

NICOBULUS
Pray, whose voice is it that sounds near me?

CHRYSALUS
O Nicobulus!

NICOBULUS
What's the matter?

CHRYSALUS
O, capital!

NICOBULUS
Well, have you done aught of what I sent you upon?

CHRYSALUS
What — ask you that? Step closer this way.

NICOBULUS
coming nearer . Well, I do come closer.

CHRYSALUS
I am an excellent pleader. By rebuking him, and by whatever hard language I really was able to think of, I forced the fellow to tears.

NICOBULUS
What did he say?

CHRYSALUS

He uttered not a word: crying, he listened in silence to what I was saying; in silence he wrote down on his tablets; these sealed he gave to me; he bade me deliver them to you. *Gives him the tablets.* But I am afraid that they sing to the same tune that the former ones did. Observe the seal, is it his?

NICOBULUS
I recognize it. I'd like to read them over. *Goes to a distance.*

CHRYSALUS
Read them through. *Aside.* Now is the upper lintel being cut down, now is the destruction of Troy near at hand. The wooden horse is shaking it right cleverly.

NICOBULUS
Chrysalus, just step here while I am reading these through.

CHRYSALUS
Prithee, what need is there for me to be near you?

NICOBULUS
That you may know what's written here.

CHRYSALUS
I don't care, and I don't wish to know.

NICOBULUS
Still, do come here.

CHRYSALUS
What need is there?

NICOBULUS
Hold your tongue.

CHRYSALUS
I won't, I say.

NICOBULUS
But I will, I say.

CHRYSALUS
What need is there?

NICOBULUS
Still do you only do that which I bid you.

CHRYSALUS
I'll come. 'Tis right to do so; your own servant ought to be obedient at your command. *Goes up to him.*

NICOBULUS
looking at the tablets . Heyday! he hasn't been sparing of his wax or pen. But whatever it is, I'm resolved to read it through. Attend to me, please, this very instant.

CHRYSALUS
When you choose, read on; I devote to you the attention of my ears.

NICOBULUS
looking close . Bless me! the letters are small.

CHRYSALUS
To one, indeed, who cannot see well with his eyes but they are quite large enough for one who can see well.

NICOBULUS
Give your attention then. *He reads.* "Father, I beseech you, do give two hundred Philippeans to Chrysalus, if you wish me to be safe or alive for you — —"

CHRYSALUS
By my troth, really a very great mistake, I tell you.

NICOBULUS
What's the matter?

CHRYSALUS
He hasn't first written the salutation to you.

NICOBULUS
looking . I don't see it anywhere.

CHRYSALUS
Even from its very commencement the letter is an impertinent one. If you are wise, you'll not give it; but at the best, if you give it him, why, let him find out some other porter for himself, if he is wise; for I won't carry it if you order me ever so much. I've been quite enough suspected as it is, when I was guiltless of a fault.

NICOBULUS
Listen on now, while I read through what's written. *(Reading.)* "I am ashamed, father, to appear before you in your presence; such disgraceful conduct of mine have I heard that you are aware of, that I have formed an intercourse with the wife of a strange Captain." By my troth, you are not joking there; for I have saved your life from the consequences of this foul deed with two hundred golden Philippeans.

CHRYSALUS
There's not a particle of these things but what I've told him.

NICOBULUS
reading . "I confess that I have acted foolishly. But I beseech you, father, do not forsake me, if, in my folly, I have transgressed. Of fierce desires, and eyes uncontrolled, have I been; I have been urged on to do a deed of which I am now ashamed." It were proper, then, that you should have taken heed before you were ashamed.

CHRYSALUS
All these very same words did I say to him only just now.

NICOBULUS
reading . "I beseech you, father, to consider that it is enough that Chrysalus has reproached me with many cutting words, and by his advice has made me a better man, so that 'tis right that you should

return him sincere thanks."

CHRYSALUS
Is that written there?

NICOBULUS
Look and see, then you'll know. *Shows him the letter.*

CHRYSALUS
He that has so offended, how humble to all he is, and of his own accord.

NICOBULUS
reading . "Now, father, if even yet I may be allowed to ask anything of you, do give me two hundred Philippean pieces, I do entreat you."

CHRYSALUS
By my troth, now, not one even, if you are wise.

NICOBULUS
Let me read on. *Reading.* "In set form I have taken an oath that I would give this to the woman this day before nightfall, ere she leaves me. Now, father, have a care that I be not forsworn, and take me hence away from her as soon as you can, on whose account I have incurred so much loss and guilt. Take care and let not the two hundred pieces be a cause of annoyance to you; I will repay you innumerable times as much, if I live. Farewell, and do attend to these matters." Now, Chrysalus, what do you think?

CHRYSALUS
I won't give you one bit of advice this day, and I won't run the risk, that if any mistake is made, you should say that you had done it by my counsel. But, as I conceive, if I were in your place, I would rather give the gold than suffer him to be corrupted. There is a twofold choice consider which you would adopt; either to lose the gold, or for a lover to be forsworn. I neither order you, nor forbid you, nor do I persuade you.

NICOBULUS
I'm sorry for him.

CHRYSALUS
You don't do anything surprising — he is your son. If still more must be lost, 'tis better for it to go, than for this disgrace to be everywhere proclaimed.

NICOBULUS
By my troth, I certainly had much rather he had been at Ephesus, so long as he was well, than that he had returned home. But why don't I hasten to get rid of that which is doomed to be squandered away? I'll bring you just now from in-doors twice two hundred Philippeans, both those which, a little time since, to my sorrow, I promised to the Captain, and these others. Wait there; I'll be out to you, Chrysalus, this instant. *Goes into his house.*

CHRYSALUS
Troy is laid waste, the chiefs have razed Pergamus. I knew some time ago that I should be the ruin of Pergamus. I' faith I wouldn't dare make a bet with him who should say that I was deserving of severe torture; so great confusion am I making. But the door makes a noise; the plunder's being brought forth from Troy. For the present I'll hold my tongue. *with the money in two bays.*

NICOBULUS
Take you this gold, Chrysalus; go, carry it to my son. But I'll go hence to the market-place to pay this to the Captain.

CHRYSALUS
For my part, I'll not receive it; do you seek somebody at once to take it. I won't have it entrusted to me.

NICOBULUS
But do take it; you're worrying me now. *Holds it to him.*

CHRYSALUS
For my part, I'll not take it.

NICOBULUS
But, prithee do.

CHRYSALUS
I am telling you what is the fact.

NICOBULUS
You are delaying me.

CHRYSALUS
I don't want, I say, the gold to be entrusted to me. At all events, find some person to keep a watch upon me.

NICOBULUS
You're plaguing me.

CHRYSALUS
Well, give it me, if it must be so. *Holds out his hand.*

NICOBULUS
gives him the money . Take care of it. I'll be back here just now. *(Exit.)*

CHRYSALUS
I've taken care —— that you shall be a most wretched old fellow; this is bringing an undertaking to a fair ending; even as it has proved my lot to go rejoicing, laden with the spoil. With safety to myself, and the city taken by stratagem, I now bring home my whole army unhurt. But, Spectators, don't you now be surprised that I don't go in triumph; 'tis such a common thing, I don't care for it. Still however, the soldiers shall be received with the usual honeyed wine. Now I'll carry off all this booty at once to the Quæstor. *Goes into the house of BACCHIS. Enter PHILOXENUS.*

PHILOXENUS
The more I revolve it in my breast, what disturbances my son has raised, into what a course of life, and into what habits he unwittingly has headlong plunged himself, the greater is my concern, and the

more do I dread lest he may be ruined or corrupted. I know it; I once was of the same age, and I did all these things; but in a quiet way. I was gay, I had my mistress, I drank, I feasted, I made presents, but still it was seldom I did so. The methods, too, please me not which I see parents in general employ towards their sons. I have determined to give some latitude to my son, that he may have some scope for his inclinations. I think that's right; but still, I don't wish him to give way too much to sloth and wantonness. Now I'm going to Mnesilochus, to see whether, as I requested, by his endeavours he has turned him for me to virtue and to sobriety; as, indeed, I am sure he has done if he has met him, of such a disposition is he by nature. *(Exit.)*

ACT V.

Enter NICOBULUS, wringing his hands.

NICOBULUS
Whoever there are in any place whatsoever, whoever have been, and whoever shall be, in time to come, fools, blockheads, idiots, dolts, sots, oafs, lubbers, I singly by far exceed them all in folly and absurd ways. I'm undone. I'm ashamed of myself; that I at this time of life should disgracefully have been twice made a fool of! The more I think of this confusion which my son has made, the more am I incensed. I'm ruined, and I'm utterly destroyed; I'm distracted in every possible way. All plagues harass me, by all modes of death do I perish. This day has Chrysalus rent me in pieces; Chrysalus has plundered wretched me; he, the villain, by his clever tricks, has shaved, to the very quick, simple me, just as he has pleased. For the Captain says that she is a Courtezan, whom that fellow said was his wife; and he has informed me of everything, as each particular happened; how that she had been hired by him for this year; how that that much gold was left to be repaid, which I, most simple man, had promised him. 'Tis this, this, I say, through which my breast boils with indignation; 'tis this, in fine, by which I am distracted; that I, at my time of life, should be made a fool of, aye, by Heaven, so made a very sport of, and with my hoary head and white beard, that wretched I should be bamboozled out of my gold. Undone am I, inasmuch as this slave of mine has dared in this way to set not the value of a nutshell upon me. And I — if any other way I had lost a greater sum — I should have taken it less amiss, and have deemed it less of a loss to me. *Enter PHILOXENUS.*

PHILOXENUS
as he enters . For sure, some person, I know not who, seems to be talking near to me. But who's this I see? Really, 'tis the father of Mnesilochus.

NICOBULUS

Hah! I see a partner in affliction. Save you, Philoxenus!

PHILOXENUS
And you; whence are you betaking yourself?

NICOBULUS
From a place whence comes a wretched and a luckless mortal.

PHILOXENUS
Why, troth, I'm surely on the earth, the spot where it befits a wretched and a luckless mortal to be.

NICOBULUS
We now, as we are of like age, are meeting with similar fortunes.

PHILOXENUS
So it is. But as to yourself, what's the matter with you?

NICOBULUS
I' faith, mine's the same mishap as your own.

PHILOXENUS
Does this misfortune in any way relate to your son?

NICOBULUS
Such is the fact.

PHILOXENUS
The same disease exists in my own breast.

NICOBULUS
Aye, and that very worthy fellow, Chrysalus, has been ruining my son, myself, and all my fortunes.

PHILOXENUS
Pray now, what is this mishap of yours about your son?

NICOBULUS
You shall know: together with your own son he's undone; both of

them are keeping mistresses alike.

PHILOXENUS
How do you know?

NICOBULUS
I have seen them.

PHILOXENUS
Ah! wretch that I am! I'm ruined outright.

NICOBULUS
Why do we hesitate a moment to knock and to call them both hither out of doors.

PHILOXENUS
I don't object.

NICOBULUS
knocks at the door of the house of BACCHIS . Hallo there! Bacchis! Bid the door to be opened this instant, if you please, unless you had rather the door and the posts be knocked to bits with hatchets.

Enter FIRST BACCHIS and SECOND BACCHIS from the house.

1st BACCHIS
Who is it that calls out my name with such a noise and tumult, and is knocking so hard at the door?

NICOBULUS
I and this person here. *Pointing to PHILOXENUS.*

1st BACCHIS
Pray, what's the matter now? Who has been driving these sheep to us?

NICOBULUS
These most shocking hussies call us sheep.

2nd BACCHIS
Their shepherd's asleep, as they come straying thus from the flock.

1st BACCHIS
But, i' faith, they are not white; they both look dirty.

2nd BACCHIS
Because they have both been shorn just now.

PHILOXENUS
How they seem to be laughing at us.

NICOBULUS
Let them, just as long as they please.

1st BACCHIS
Don't you think that these sheep are shorn three times a year?

2nd BACCHIS
I' faith, to-day one of them has been already shorn twice, that's sure.

1st BACCHIS
They are old and fleeceless, both of them.

2nd BACCHIS
But I think they have been in good plight once.

1st BACCHIS
Prithee, do you see how they are looking with a sheep's eye at us?

2nd BACCHIS
By my troth, I really do believe they are without any ill design.

PHILOXENUS
This happens to us deservedly, for having come here.

1st BACCHIS
Well, let them be driven in-doors to fold.

2nd BACCHIS
I don't know what occasion there is for that, as they have neither milk nor wool. Let them stand as they are. Of whatever value they have been, they are now out of date; all their fruit has fallen off them by this. Don't you see, how, straying unattended, they are ranging about at liberty? Why, I fancy that they must be dumb with age; they don't bleat even, though they are absent from the rest of the flock. They seem both silly and worthless.

1st BACCHIS
Let's return in-doors, sister.

NICOBULUS
Stay where you are, both of you; these sheep want you.

2nd BACCHIS
Why, surely this is a prodigy; sheep are addressing us with a human voice.

PHILOXENUS
These sheep will return you the heavy and great injury which they owe to you.

1st BACCHIS
If you owe me aught, I forgive it you; keep it to yourself; I'll never demand it of you. But what is the reason that you are threatening mischief to us?

PHILOXENUS
Because they say that our two lambs are shut up here. *Pointing to the house.*

NICOBULUS
And besides those lambs, my dog is there concealed that bites. If they are not now produced to us and sent out of the house, we shall be furious rams; we shall attack you forthwith.

1st BACCHIS

Sister, I have something to say to you in private.

2nd BACCHIS
How now, prithee? *They go apart.*

NICOBULUS
Whither are they going?

FIRST BACCHIS
Sister, I give to you that old fellow that's farthest off, that you may have him cleverly smoothed down; I'll now attack this other one that's angry; if we can only entice them here indoors.

2nd BACCHIS
I'll manage my task with cleverness, although 'tis to caress an old skeleton.

1st BACCHIS
Take care and do your best.

2nd BACCHIS
Be quiet; do you do yours; I'll manage what I have said.

NICOBULUS
Why are these two women holding a council here in private?

PHILOXENUS
What say you, my good fellow —— ?

NICOBULUS
What would you with me?

PHILOXENUS
I really am ashamed to tell you a certain thing.

NICOBULUS
What is it that you're ashamed about?

PHILOXENUS

Still, as you are a person, a friend of mine, I'm determined to entrust you with what I could wish. *Whispers.* I'm good for nought.

NICOBULUS
I've known that this long time; but tell me why you're good for nought?

PHILOXENUS
I've been terribly touched with birdlime: troth, my heart is pierced by the goad.

NICOBULUS
I' faith, 'twere much better if your flanks were goaded, you worthless fellow. But what is it? Although I suspect that I myself pretty well know already what it is; still, I should even like to hear it from yourself.

PHILOXENUS
Do you see that woman? *Pointing to the SECOND BACCHIS.*

NICOBULUS
I see her.

PHILOXENUS
She's not an uncomely person.

NICOBULUS
Troth, but she is decidedly uncomely; and you are a good-for-nothing fellow.

PHILOXENUS
Why more? I'm in love.

NICOBULUS
You, in love?

PHILOXENUS
'Pon honor.

NICOBULUS
And do you, you rotten creature, presume to become a lover at your time of life?

PHILOXENUS
Why not?

NICOBULUS
Because it's a disgrace.

PHILOXENUS
What need of words? I am not vexed with my son, nor yet is it right you should be vexed with yours: if they are in love, they do wisely.

1st BACCHIS
... Follow me this way. *They approach the old men.*

NICOBULUS
See, they are moving at last, these allurers and enticers to disgrace. *To the women.* How now? Do you this instant restore us our sons and my servant, or am I to try rougher means with you?

PHILOXENUS
Won't you away with you? You surely are not a man, to address a pretty woman so rudely in that fashion.

1st BACCHIS
Most worthy old gentleman, by whatsoever is upon the earth, let me entreat this of you, that you will cease to attack this error with such great vehemence.

NICOBULUS
If you don't away with you, although you are so handsome, I'll be doing you some great mischief just now.

1st BACCHIS
I shall endure it; I don't apprehend that any blow that you can give, will cause me any pain.

NICOBULUS
How smooth of speech she is. O me! I am in alarm.

1st BACCHIS
aside . He's more calm already. *Aloud.* Step this way with me in-doors; and there, if you choose, correct your son. *Takes his arm.*

NICOBULUS
Avaunt from me, abomination! *Shakes her off.*

1st BACCHIS
Do, my love, let me prevail upon you.

NICOBULUS
You, prevail upon me? 2nd

FIRST BACCHIS
For sure, I shall prevail, at all events, upon this gentleman. *Pointing PHILOXENUS.*

PHILOXENUS
Yes, I beg of you to show me in-doors.

2nd BACCHIS
What a dear man you are.

PHILOXENUS
But do you know on what condition you are to show me in-doors?

2nd BACCHIS
That you are to be with me.

PHILOXENUS
You mention all that I desire.

2nd BACCHIS

...

NICOBULUS
I have seen wicked men; but not one worse than yourself.

PHILOXENUS
I am as I am.

1st BACCHIS
to NICOBULUS . Step this way in-doors with me, where you may be elegantly received with viands, wine, and unguents.

NICOBULUS
Enough, enough now of your banquets; it matters not to me how I'm received. My son and Chrysalus have choused me out of four hundred Philippeans. If I don't surely this day put him to the torture, may I never receive as large a sum again.

1st BACCHIS
What, pray, if half the gold is paid you back? Will you go in-doors here with me, and so control your feelings as to forgive them their faults?

PHILOXENUS
He'll do it. *Takes his arm.*

NICOBULUS
Certainly not — I won't — I don't care — let me alone, now. *Shakes him off.* I had rather punish them both.

PHILOXENUS
Take you care, you good-for-nothing man, that through your own fault you don't lose even that which the favouring Gods offer you. One half of the gold is offered; take it, and carouse, and enjoy yourself with your partner.

NICOBULUS
What, am I to carouse in that very place where my son is being corrupted?

PHILOXENUS
You must carouse there.

NICOBULUS
Am I to be the witness of it when she is reclining with him at table?

1st BACCHIS
Nay, so far as I'm concerned, i' faith, I'll recline at table with your own self.

NICOBULUS
My head does itch so. *Aside.* I'm a ruined man — I can scarce deny her.

PHILOXENUS
And has it not before this come into your mind, that if, while you live, you enjoy yourself, that, i' faith, is for no very long time; and that, if you lose the present day, it can never return to you after you are dead?

NICOBULUS
What am I to do?

PHILOXENUS
What are you to do? Do you even ask it?

NICOBULUS
I should like, and yet I'm afraid.

1st BACCHIS
What are you afraid of?

NICOBULUS
Lest I should be exposed before my son and my servant.

1st BACCHIS
Pray now, my honey; such things do happen. He's your own son; whence do you suppose that he is to have money, except that only

which you give him yourself? Let me obtain pardon of you for them both.

NICOBULUS
aside . How she does work her way. She's now prevailing on me against that which I was quite resolved upon.

1st BACCHIS
I will love you, and embrace you.

NICOBULUS
Through your doing, and for your sake am I corrupted.

1st BACCHIS
I certainly had rather 'twere for your own than for mine.

NICOBULUS
Come then, however that may be, although it is to my disgrace, I'll submit; I'll induce my feelings to do so.

1st BACCHIS
Have I that solemnly promised? ...

NICOBULUS
What I have once said, I will not alter.

1st BACCHIS
The day wears apace. Come into the house, to take your places at table: your sons are expecting within ——

NICOBULUS
How soon, in fact, we may be dead, d'ye mean?

1st BACCHIS
'Tis evening, already; come, follow us.

PHILOXENUS
Lead us in like bondsmen. *They go into the house.*

1st BACCHIS
to the SPECTATORS . Right cleverly are these persons entrapped themselves, who for their sons had laid a snare. *Goes in.*

The COMPANY The company: The whole company of actors (Caterva) now comes forward, and chant or repeat the moral of the Play which has just been acted. of COMEDIANS
Had not these old men been worthless from their youth upwards, they would not, with their hoary heads, have this day done an action so disgraceful; nor, indeed, should we have represented this, if we had not, before this, seen it happen that fathers became the rivals of their sons in the houses of procurers. Spectators, we wish you Farewell! and that you will grant us loud applause.

CAPTIVI

Translated by Henry Thomas Riley

Captivi (The Captives) concerns the theme of slavery and prisoners of war, a relatively serious treatment of significant themes compared to most of Plautus' other comedies. Plautus himself points out this difference in tone in the prologue. The plot involves Philocrates and his slave Tyndarus, of the Greek district of Elis, who have been captured in war against another Greek region, Aetolia. They are now prisoners and slaves bought by Hegio, a well-to-do resident of Aetolia, who is planning to trade them for his son, Philipolemus, who has been captured in Elis. Pretending to be each other, the supposed slave Philocrates is sent to make the trade, while Tyndarus risks his life by remaining.

Unlike most of Plautus' comedies, this play offers little in the way of sexual references and instead concentrates on serious subjects, including personal freedom, slavery and war. Although the mistaken identity elements of the plot are sometimes played for laughs and the sponger Ergasilus adds simple humour, there are also serious speeches about the fate of slaves and the realities of war. The German poet and philosopher Gotthold Ephraim Lessing famously pronounced *Captivi* to be the finest play ever staged. This praise has been deprecated by later critics, but the play has still earned plaudits for dealing with important ethical issues. Ben Jonson indirectly paid tribute to the play by adapting the plot of *Captivi* for his early comedy *The Case is Altered*.

Ancient ruins at Aetolia — the setting of the play

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THE SUBJECT.

HEGIO, a wealthy native of Ætolia, had two sons, one of which was stolen by a slave when four years old, and being carried away to Elis, was sold there; the father being unable for many years to learn what has become of him. A war having commenced between the Eleans and the Ætolians, Phiiopolemus, the other son of Hegio, is taken prisoner by the Eleans. The Ætolians having taken many Elean prisoners, Hegio commences to traffic in captives, with the view of thereby redeeming his son from the Eleans, in exchange for some prisoner of rank. A this conjuncture the Play commences. Among the captives whom Hegio has purchased, Philocrates is one, having been taken prisoner, together with his servant, Tyndarus. With the object of deceiving Hegio, Philocrates and Tyndarus change their clothes, and having exchanged names as well, Philocrates pretends to be the servant of Tyndarus. Hegio being desirous to procure the exchange of his son, Philocrates (in the character of the servant of his fellowcaptive) is sent to Elis for that purpose. After his departure, Aristophontes, another captive, accidentally puts Hegio in the way of discovering the manner in which he has been deceived. On this, the old man, losing all hope of obtaining the liberation of his son, sends Tyndarus in chains to the stone-quarries. Shortly after, Philocrates returns, and brings with him Philopolemus, the son of Hegio, and Stalagmus, the runaway slave, that had stolen his other son. It is then discovered that Stalagmus had sold the child to the father of Philocrates, and that he is no other than Tyndarus, the slave; on which, Tyndarus is sent for, and is informed that he is the lost son of Hegio. Stalagmus is then condemned to the chains from which Tyndarus is liberated.

THE ACROSTIC ARGUMENT.

[Supposed to have been written by Priscian the Grammarian]

One son of Hegio has been made prisoner (Captus) in battle. A runaway slave has sold the other (Alium) when four years old. The father (Pater) traffics in Elean captives, only (Tantum) desirous that he may recover his son, and (Et) among these he buys his son that was formerly lost. He (Is), his clothes and his name changed with his master, causes that (Ut) he is lost to Hegio; and he himself is punished. And (Et) he brings back the captive and the runaway together, through whose information (Indicio) he discovers his other son.

THE PROLOGUE.

PROLOGUS

THESE two captives *pointing to PHILOCRATES and TYNDARUS* , whom you see standing here, are standing here because —— they are both standing, and are not sitting. That I am saying this truly, you are my witnesses. The old man, who lives here *pointing to HEGIO'S house* , is Hegio — his father *pointing to TYNDARUS* . But under what circumstances he is the slave of his own father, that I will here explain to you, if you give attention. This old man had two sons; a slave stole one child when four years old, and flying hence, he sold him in Elis, to the father of this captive *pointing to PHIILOCRATES* . Now, do you understand this? Very good. I' faith, that man at a distance there *pointing* says, no. Come nearer then. If there isn't room for you to sit down, there is for you to walk; since you'd be compelling an actor to bawl like a beggar. I'm not going to burst myself for your sake, so don't you be mistaken. You who are enabled by your means to pay your taxes, listen to the rest; I care not to be in debt to another. This runaway slave, as I said before, sold his young master, whom, whom he fled, he had carried off, to this one's father. He, after he bought him, gave him as his own private slave to his son of his, because they were of about the same age. He is now the slave at home of his own father, nor does his father know it. Verily, the Gods do treat us men just like footballs. You hear the manner now how he lost one son. Afterwards, the Ætolians are waging war with the people of Elis, and, as happens in warfare, the other son is taken prisoner. The physician Menarchus buys him there in Elis. On this, this Hegio begins to traffic in Elean captives, if, perchance, he may be able to find one to change for that captive son of his. He knows not that this one who is in his house is his own son. And as he heard yesterday that an Elean knight of very high rank and very high family was taken prisoner, he has spared no expense to rescue his son. In order that he may more easily bring him back home, he buys both of these of the Quæstors out of the spoil.

Now they, between themselves, have contrived this plan, that, by

means of it, the servant may send away hence his master home. And therefore among themselves they change their garments and their names. He, there *pointing* , is called Philocrates; this one *pointing* , Tyndarus; he this day assumes the character of this one, this one of him. And this one to-day will cleverly carry out this plot, and cause his master to gain his liberty; and by the same means he will save his own brother, and without knowing it, will cause him to return back a free man to his own country to his father. just as often now, on many occasions, a person has done more good unknowingly than knowingly. But unconsciously, by their devices, they have so planned and devised their plot, and have so contrived it by their design, that this one is living in servitude with his own father. And thus now, in ignorance, he is the slave of his own father. What poor creatures are men, when I reflect upon it! This plot will be performed by us — a play for your entertainment. But there is, besides, a thing which, in a few words, I would wish to inform you of. Really, it will be worth your while to give your attention to this play. 'Tis not composed in the hackneyed style, nor yet like other plays, nor are there in it any ribald lines unfit for utterance: here is neither the perjured procurer, nor the artful courtesan, nor yet the braggart captain. Don't you be afraid because I've said that there's war between the Ætolians and the Eleans. There *pointing* , at a distance, beyond the scenes, the battles will be fought. For this were almost impossible for a Comic establishment, that we should at a moment attempt to be acting Tragedy. If, therefore, any one is looking for a battle, let him commence the quarrel; if he shall find an adversary more powerful, I'll cause him to be the spectator of a battle that isn't pleasant to him, so that hereafter he shall hate to be a spectator them all. I now retire. Fare ye well, at home, most upright judges, and in warfare most valiant combatants.

ACT I.

Enter ERGASILUS.

ERGASILUS
The young men have given me the name of "the mistress," for this reason, because invocated I am wont to attend at the banquet. I know that buffoons say that this is absurdly said, but I affirm that it is rightly said. For at the banquet the lover, when he throws the dice, invokes his mistress. Is she then invocated, or is she not? She is, most clearly. But, i' faith, we Parasites with better reason are so called, whom no person ever either invites or invokes, and who, like mice, are always eating the victuals of another person. When business is laid aside, when people repair to the country, at that same moment is business laid aside for our teeth. Just as, when it is hot weather, snails lie hidden in secret, and live upon their own juices, if the dew doesn't fall; so, when business is laid aside, do Parasites lie hidden in retirement, and miserably live upon their own juices, while in the country the persons are rusticating whom they sponge upon. When business is laid aside, we Parasites are greyhounds; when business recommences, like mastiffs, we are annoying-like and very troublesome- like. And here, indeed, unless, i' faith, any Parasite is able to endure cuffs with the fist, and pots to be broken about his head, why he may e'en go with his wallet outside the Trigeminian Gate. That this may prove my lot, there is some danger. For since my patron has fallen into the hands of the enemy — (such warfare are the Ætolians now waging with the Eleans; for this is Ætolia; this Philopolemus has been made captive in Elis, the son of this old man Hegio who lives here *pointing to the house* — a house which to me is a house of woe, and which so oft as I look upon, I weep). Now, for the sake of his son, has he commenced this dishonorable traffic, very much against his own inclination. He buys up men that have been made captives, if perchance he may be able to find some one for whom to gain his son in exchange. An object which I really do much desire that he may gain. for unless he finds him, there's nowhere for me to find myself. I have no hopes in the young men; they are all too

fond of themselves. He, in fine, is a youth with the old-fashioned nanners, whose countenance I never rendered cheerful without a return. His father is worthily matched, as endowed with like manners. Now I'll go to him; — but his door is opening, the door from which full oft I've sallied forth drunk with excess of cheer. *He stands aside.*

Enter, from his house, HEGIO and a SLAVE.

HEGIO
Now, give attention you, if you please. Those two captives whom I purchased yesterday of the Quæstors out of the spoil, put upon them chains of light weight; take off those greater ones with which they are bound. Permit them to walk, if they wish, out of doors, or if in-doors, but so that they are watched with the greatest care. A captive at liberty is like a bird that's wild; if opportunity is once given for escaping, 'tis enough; after that, you can never catch him.

A SLAVE
Doubtless we all are free men more willingly than we live the life of slaves.

HEGIO
You, indeed, don't seem to think so.

A SLAVE
If I have nothing to give, should you like me to give myself to flight?

HEGIO
If you do so give yourself, I shall at once have something to be giving to you.

A SLAVE
I'll make myself just like the wild bird you were telling of.

HEGIO
'Tis just as you say; for if you do so, I'll be giving you to the cage. But enough of prating; take you care of what I've ordered, and be off.

The SLAVE goes into the house. I'll away to my brother's, to my other captives; I'll go see whether they've been making any disturbance last night. From there I shall forthwith betake myself home again.

ERGASILUS
apart . It grieves me that this unhappy old man is following the trade of a slave-dealer, by reason of the misfortune of his son. But, if by any means he can be brought back here, I could even endure for him to become an executioner.

HEGIO
overhearing him . Who is it that's speaking?

ERGASILUS
'Tis I, who am. pining at your affliction, growing thin, waxing old, and shockingly wasting away. Wretched man that I am, I'm but skin and bone through leanness; nor does anything ever do me good that I eat at home; even that ever so little which I taste out of doors, the same refreshes me.

HER.
Ergasilus, save you!

ERGASILUS
crying . May the Gods kindly bless you, Hegio!

HER.
Don't weep.

ERGASILUS
Must I not weep for him? Must I not weep for such a young man?

HEGIO
I've always known you to be a friend to my son, and I have understood him to be so to you.

ERGASILUS

Then at last do we men know our blessings, when we have lost those things which we once had in our power. I, since your son fell into the power of the enemy, knowing by experience of what value he was, now feel his loss.

HEGIO
Since you, who are no relation, bear his misfortune so much amiss, what is it likely that I, a father, should do, whose only son he is?

ERGASILUS
I, no relation to him? He, no relation to me? Oh, Hegio! never do say that, nor come to such a belief. To you he is an only child, but to me he is even more only than an only one.

HEGIO
I commend you, in that you consider the affliction of your friend your own affliction. Now be of good heart.

ERGASILUS
crying . O dear! HEG. *half-aside* . 'Tis this afflicts him, that the army for guttling is now disbanded. Meanwhile, have you found no one to command for you the army that you mentioned as disbanded?

ERGASILUS
What do you think? All to whom it used to fall are in the habit of declining that province since your son Philopolemus was taken prisoner.

HEGIO
I' faith, 'tisn't to be wondered at, that they are in the habit of declining that province. You have necessity for numerous troops, and those of numerous kinds. Well, first you have need of the Bakerians. Of these Bakerians there are several kinds, You have need of Roll-makerians, you have need too of Confectionerians, you have need of Poultererians, you have need of Beccaficorians; besides, all the maritime forces are necessary for you.

ERGASILUS

How the greatest geniuses do frequently lie concealed! How great a general now is this private individual!

HEGIO
Only have good courage; for I trust that in a few days I shall bring him back home. For see now; there's a captive here, a young man of Elis, born of a very high family, and of very great wealth; I trust that it will come to pass that I shall get my son in exchange for him.

ERGASILUS
May the Gods and Goddesses grant it so!

HEGIO
But are you invited out anywhere to dinner?

ERGASILUS
Nowhere that I know of. But, pray, why do you ask me?

HEGIO
Because this is my birthday; for that reason I'd like you to be invited to dinner at my house.

ERGASILUS
'Tis kindly said.

HEGIO
But if you can be content to eat a very little ——

ERGASILUS
Aye, even ever so little; for on such fare as that do I enjoy myself every day at home.

HEGIO
Come, then, please, set yourself up for sale.

ERGASILUS
I'll put myself up for purchase, just like a landed estate, unless any one shall privately make a better offer that pleases myself and my

friends more, and to my own conditions will I bind myself.

HEGIO
You are surely selling me a bottomless pit, and not a landed estate. But if you are coming, do so in time.

ERGASILUS
Why, for that matter, I'm at leisure even now.

HEGIO
Go then, and hunt for a hare; at present, in me you have but a ferret, for my fare is in the way of frequenting a rugged road.

ERGASILUS
You'll never repulse me by that, Hegio, so don't attempt it. I'll come, in spite of it, with teeth well shod.

HEGIO
Really, my viands are but of a rough sort.

ERGASILUS
Are you in the habit of eating brambles?

HEGIO
Mine is an earthy dinner.

ERGASILUS
A pig is an earthy animal.

HEGIO
Earthy from its plenty of vegetables.

ERGASILUS
Treat your sick peoples at home with that fare? Do you wish anything else?

HEGIO
Come in good time.

ERGASILUS
You are putting in mind one who remembers quite well. *(Exit.)*

HEGIO
I'll go in-doors, and in the house I'll make the calculation how little money I have at my banker's; afterwards I'll go to my brother's, whither I was saying I would go. *Goes into his house.*

ACT II.

Enter, from the house, PHILOCRATES, TYNDARUS, and SLAVES and CAPTIVES of HEGIO.

A SLAVE
If the immortal Gods have so willed it that you should undergo this affliction, it becomes you to endure it with equanimity; if you do so, your trouble will be lighter. At home you were free men, I suppose; now if slavery has befallen you, 'tis a becoming way for you to put up with it, and by your dispositions to render it light, under a master's rule. Unworthy actions which a master does must be deemed worthy ones.

PHILOCRATES
and

TYNDARUS
Alas! alas! alas!

A SLAVE
There's no need for wailing; you cause much injury to your eyes. In adversity, if you use fortitude of mind, it is of service.

PHILOCRATES
and

TYNDARUS
But we are ashamed, because we are in bonds.

A SLAVE
But in the result it might cause vexation to our master, if he were to release you from chains, or allow you to be loose, whom he has purchased with his money.

PHILOCRATES
and

TYNDARUS
What does he fear from us? We know our duty, what it is, if he allows us to be loose.

A SLAVE
Why, you are meditating escape. I know what it is you are devising.

PHILOCRATES
and

TYNDARUS
We, make our escape? Whither should we escape?

A SLAVE
To your own country.

PHILOCRATES
and

TYNDARUS
Out upon you; it would ill befit us to be following the example of runaways.

A SLAVE
Why, faith, should there be an opportunity, I don't advise you not.

PHILOCRATES
and

TYNDARUS
Do you allow us to make one request.

A SLAVE
What is it, pray?

PHILOCRATES
and

TYNDARUS

That you will give us an opportunity of conversing, without these and yourselves for overlookers.

A SLAVE
Be it so; go you away from here, you people. Let's step here, on one side. *To the other CAPTIVES and SLAVES.* But commence upon a short conversation only.

PHILOCRATES
O yes, it was my intention so to do. Step aside this way *to TYNDARUS* .

A SLAVE
to the other CAPTIVES . Stand apart from them.

TYNDARUS
to the SLAVE . We are both greatly obliged to you, by reason of your doing so, since you allow us to obtain what we are desirous of.

PHILOCRATES
Step here then, at a distance now, if you think fit, that no listeners may be enabled to overhear our discourse, and that this plan of ours mayn't be divulged before them for a stratagem is no stratagem, if you don't plan it with art but it is a very great misfortune if it becomes disclosed. For if you are my master, and I represent myself as your servant, still there's need of foresight, and need of caution, that this may be carried out discreetly and without overlookers, with carefulness and with cautious prudence and diligence. So great is the mutter that has been commenced upon; this must not be carried out in any drowsy fashion.

TYNDARUS
Just as you shall desire me to be, I will be.

PHILOCRATES
I trust so.

TYNDARUS

For now you see that for your precious life I'm setting at stake my own, as dear to me.

PHILOCRATES
I know it.

TYNDARUS
But remember to know it when you shall be enjoying that which you wish for; for mostly, the greatest part of mankind follow this fashion; what they wish for, until they obtain it, they are rightminded; but when they have now got it in their power, from being rightminded they become most deceitful, and most dishonest; now I do consider that you are towards me as I wish. What I advise you, I would advise my own father.

PHILOCRATES
I' faith, if I could venture, I would call you father; for next to my own father, you are my nearest father.

TYNDARUS
I understand.

PHILOCRATES
And therefore I remind you the more frequently, that you may remember it. I am not your master, but your servant; now this one thing I do beseech you. Inasmuch as the immortal Gods have disclosed to us their wishes, that they desire me to have once been your master, and now to be your fellow-captive; what formerly of my right I used to command you, now with entreaties do I beg of you, by our uncertain fortunes, and by the kindness of my father towards you, and by our common captivity, which has befallen us by the hand of the enemy, don't you pay me any greater respect than I did you when you were my slave; and don't you forget to remember who you were, and who you now are.

TYNDARUS
I know, indeed, that I now am you, and that you are I.

PHILOCRATES
Well, if you are able carefully to remember that, 1 have some hope in this scheme of ours.

Enter HEGIO, from his house, speaking to those within.

HEGIO
I shall return in-doors just now, when I shall have discovered from these people what I want to know. *To the SLAVES.* Where are those persons whom I ordered to be brought out of doors here, before the house ?

PHILOCRATES
By my faith, I find that you have taken due precaution that we shouldn't be missed by you, so walled in are we with chains and keepers.

HEGIO
He that takes precaution that he mayn't be deceived, is hardly on his guard, even while he's taking precaution; even when he has supposed that he has taken every precaution, full often is this wary man outwitted. Was there not good reason, indeed, for me to watch you carefully, whom I purchased with so large a sum of ready money?

PHILOCRATES
Troth, it isn't fair for us to hold you to blame, because you watch us closely; nor yet for you us, if we go away hence, should there be an opportunity.

HEGIO
As you are here, so is my son a captive there among your people.

PHILOCRATES
He, a captive?

HEGIO
Even so.

PHILOCRATES
We, then, have not proved the only cowards.

HEGIO
to PHILOCRATES, supposing him to be the SERVANT of the other . Step you aside this way, for there are some things that I wish to enquire of you in private, on which subjects I would have you not to be untruthful to me, *They step aside.*

PHILOCRATES
I will not be, as to that which I shall know; if I shall not know anything, that which I don't know I'll tell you of.

TYNDARUS
. *aside* . Now is the old fellow in the barber's shop; now, at this very instant, is Philocrates wielding the razor. He hasn't cared, indeed, to put on the barber's cloth, so as not to soil his dress. But whether to say that he's going to shave him close, or trim him through the eomb, I don't know; but if he's wise, he'll scrape him right well to the very quick.

HEGIO
to PHILOCRATES . Which would you? Would you prefer to be a slave, or a free man? — Tell me.

PHILOCRATES
That which is the nearest to good, and the furthest off from evil, do I prefer; although my servitude hasn't proved very grievous to me, nor has it been otherwise to me than if I had been a son in the family.

TYNDARUS
aside . Capital! I wouldn't purchase, at a talent's price even, Thales the Milesian; for compared with this man's wisdom, he was a very twaddler. How cleverly has he suited his language to the slave's condition.

HEGIO
Of what family is this Philocrates born?

PHILOCRATES
The Polyplusian; which one family is flourishing there, and held in highest esteem.

>HEG.
. What is he himself? In what esteem is he held there?

PHILOCRATES
In the highest, and that by the very highest men.

HEGIO
Since, then, he is held in such great respect among the Eleans, as you tell of, what substance has he? — Of large amount?

PHILOCRATES
Enough for him, even, when an old man, to be melting out the tallow.

HEGIO
What is his father? Is he living?

PHILOCRATES
When we departed thence, we left him alive; whether he's living now or not, Orcus, forsooth, must know that.

TYNDARUS
aside . The matter's all right; he's not only lying, but he's even philosophizing now.

HEGIO
What's his name?

PHILOCRATES
Thesaurochrysonicocrœsides.

HEGIO
That name has been given, I suppose, by reason of his wealth, as it were.

PHILOCRATES
Troth, not so, but rather by reason of his avarice and grasping disposition; for, indeed, he was Theodoromedes originally by name.

HEGIO
How say you? Is his father covetous?

PHILOCRATES
Aye, by my faith, he is covetous. Why, that you may even understand it the better, — when he's sacrificing at any time to his own Genius, the vessels that are needed for the sacrifice he uses of Samian ware, lest the Genius himself should steal them; from this, consider how much he would trust other people.

HEGIO
addressing TYNDARUS as though PHILOCRATES . Do you then follow me this way. *(Aside.)* The things that I desire to know, I'll enquire of him.*Addressing TYNDARUS.* Philocrates, this person has done as it becomes an honest man to do. For from him I've learnt of what family you are sprung; he has confessed it to me. If you are willing to own these same things (which, however, understand that I already know from him), you will be doing it for your own advantage.

TYNDARUS
He did his duty when he confessed the truth to you, although, Hegio, I wished carefully to conceal both my rank and my wealth; now, inasmuch as I've lost my country and my liberty, I don't think it right for him to be dreading me rather than you. The might of warfare has made my fortunes on a level with himself. I remember the time when he didn't dare to do it in word; now, in deed, he is at liberty to offend me. But don't you see? Human fortune moulds and fashions just as she wills. Myself, who was a free man she has made a slave, from the very highest the very lowest. I, who was accustomed to command, now obey the mandates of another. And indeed, if I meet with a master just such as I proved the ruler in my own household, I shall not fear that he will rule me harshly or severely. With this, Hegio, I

wished you to be acquainted, unless perchance you your self wish it not.

HEGIO
Speak boldly out.

TYNDARUS
As free a man was I till lately as your son. As much did a hostile hand deprive me of my liberty as him of his. As much is he a slave among my people, as I am now a slave here with yourself. There is undoubtedly a God, who both hears and sees the things which we do. Just as you shall treat me here, in the same degree will he have a care for him. To the well-deserving will he show favour, to the ill-deserving will he give a like return. As much as you lament your son, so much does my father lament me.

HEGIO
That I am aware of. But do you admit the same that lie has disclosed to me?

TYNDARUS
I confess that my father has very great wealth at home, and that I am born of a very noble family; but I entreat you, Hegio, let not my riches make your mind too prone to avarice, lest it should seem to my father, although I am his only son, more suitable that I should be a slave in your house, bountifully supplied at your expense and with your clothing, rather than be living the life of a beggar where 'twould be far from honorable.

HEGIO
By the favour of the Gods and of my forefathers, I am rich enough. I don't quite believe that every kind of gain is serviceable to mankind. I know that gain has already made many a man famous; and yet there are occasions when it is undoubtedly better to incur loss than to make gain. Gold I detest: many a one has it persuaded to many an evil course. Now give your attention to this, that you may know as well what my wishes are. My son, taken prisoner. is in servitude at Elis

there among your people; if you restore him to me, don't you give me a single coin besides; both you and him, your servant, I'll send back from here; on no other terms can you depart hence.

TYNDARUS
You ask what's very right and very just, and you are the very kindest person of all mankind. But whether is he in servitude to a private person or to the public?

HEGIO
In private servitude to Menarchus, a physician.

PHILOCRATES
By my faith, that person's surely his father's dependant. Why really, that's down as pat for you, as the shower is when it rains.

HEGIO
Do you then cause this person, my son, to be redeemed.

TYNDARUS
I'll do so: but this I beg of you, Hegio ——

HEGIO
Whatever you wish, so that you request nothing against my interest, I'll do.

TYNDARUS
Listen then, and you'll know. I don't ask for myself to be released, until he has returned. But I beg of you to give me him *pointing to PHILOCRATES* with a price set upon him, that I may send him to my father, that this person, your son, may be redeemed there.

HEGIO
Why no; I'd rather send another person hence, when there shall be a truce, to confer with your father there, and to carry your injunctions which you shall entrust him with, just as you wish.

TYNDARUS

But it's of no use to send to him one that he doesn't know; you'd be losing your labour. Send this person; he'll have it all completed, if he gets there. And you cannot send any person to him more faithful, nor one in whom he places more confidence, nor who is more a servant after his own mind; nor, in fact, one to whom he would more readily entrust your son. Have no fears; at my own peril I'll make proof of his fidelity, relying upon his disposition; because he is sensible that I'm kindly disposed towards him.

HEGIO
Well then, I'll send him with a price set upon him, on the surety of your promise, if you wish it.

TYNDARUS
I do wish it; so soon as ever it can, I want this matter to be brought to completion.

HEGIO
What reason is there, then, that if he doesn't return, you should not pay me twenty minæ for him?

TYNDARUS
Yes — very good.

HEGIO
to the SLAVES, who obey . Release him now forthwith; and, indeed, both of them. *On being released, PHILOCRATES goes into the house.*

TYNDARUS
May all the Gods grant you all your desires, since you have deigned me honor so great, and since you release me from my chains. Really, this is not so irksome now, since my neck is free from the collar-chain.

HEGIO
The kindnesses that are done to the good, thanks for the same are pregnant with blessings. Now, if you are about to send him thither,

direct, instruct him, give him the orders which you wish to be carried to your father. Should you like me to call him to you?

TYNDARUS
Do call him. *HEGIO goes to the door, and calls PHILOCRATES.*

Enter PHILOCRATES, from the house

HEGIO
May this affair turn out happily for myself and for my son, and for yourselves. *To PHILOCRATES.* Your new master wishes you to pay faithful obedience to your former owner in what he wishes. For I have presented you to him, with the price of twenty minæ set upon you: and he says that he is desirous to send you away hence to his father, that he may there redeem my son, and that an exchange may be made between me and him for our respective sons.

PHILOCRATES
My disposition takes its course straight in either direction, both to yourself and to him; as a wheel you may make use of me; either this way or that can I be turned, whichever way you shall command me.

HEGIO
You yourself profit the most from your own disposition, when you endure slavery just as it ought to be endured. Follow me. *(To TYNDARUS.)* See here's your man.

TYNDARUS
I return you thanks, since you give me this opportunity and permission to send this messenger to my parents, who may relate all the matter in its order to my father, what I'm doing here, and what I wish to be done. *To PHILOCRATES.* Now, Tyndarus, thus is it arranged between myself and him, that I'm to send you, valued at a fixed price, to my father in Elis; so that, if you don't return hither, I'm to give twenty minæ for you.

PHILOCRATES
I think that you've come to a right understanding. For your father

expects either myself or some messenger to come from here to him.

TYNDARUS
I wish you, then, to mind what message it is I want you to carry hence to my country to my father.

PHILOCRATES
Philocrates, as up to this moment I have done, I will take all due care to endeavour that which may especially conduce to your interest, and to pursue the same with heart and soul, and with my ears.

TYNDARUS
You act just as you ought to act; now I wish you to give attention. In the first place of all, carry my respects to my mother and my father, and to my relations, and if any one else you see well-disposed towards me: say that I am in health here, and that I am a slave, in servitude to this most worthy man, who has ever honored me more and more with his respect, and does so still.

PHILOCRATES
Don't you be instructing me as to that; I can, still, easily bear that in mind.

TYNDARUS
For, indeed, except that I have a keeper, I deem myself to be a free man. Tell my father on what terms I have agreed with this party about his son.

PHILOCRATES
What I remember, it is sheer delay to be putting me in mind of.

TYNDARUS
To redeem him, and to send him back here in exchange for both of us.

PHILOCRATES
I'll remember it.

HEGIO
But as soon as he can that is especially to the interest of us both.

PHILOCRATES
You are not more anxious to see your son, than he is to see his.

HEGIO
My son is dear to myself, and his own to every man.

PHILOCRATES
to TYNDARUS . Do you wish any other message to be carried to your father?

TYNDARUS
Say that I am well here; and do you boldly tell him, Tyndarus, that we have been of dispositions for uninterrupted harmony between ourselves, and that you have neither been deserving of censure, nor that I have proved your enemy; and that still, amid miseries so great, you have shown implicit obedience to your master, and that you have never abandoned me, either in deed or in fidelity, amid my wavering, unprosperous fortunes. When my father shall know this, Tyndarus, how well-disposed you have proved towards his son and himself, he will never be so avaricious but that he'll give you your liberty for nothing. And by my own endeavours, if I return hence, I'll make him do so the more readily. For by your aid and kindness, and good disposition and prudence, you have caused me to be allowed to return to my parents once again, inasmuch as to Hegio you have confessed both my rank and my wealth; by means of which, through your wisdom, you have liberated your master from his chains.

PHILOCRATES
The things which you mention I have done, and I am pleased that you remember this. Deservedly have they been done for you by me; for now, Philocrates, if I, too, were to mention the things that you have kindly done for me, the night would cut short the day. For, had you been my slave even, no otherwise were you always obliging to me.

HEGIO
Ye Gods, by our trust in you! behold the kindly disposition of these persons! How they draw the very tears from me! See how cordially they love each other, and with what praises the servant has commended his master.

PHILOCRATES
I' troth, he hasn't commended me the one hundredth part of what he himself deserves to be commended in my praises.

HEGIO
to PHILOCRATES . Since, then, you have acted most becomingly, now there's an opportunity to add to your good deeds in managing this matter with fidelity towards him.

PHILOCRATES
I am not able more to wish it done, than by my endeavours to try to bring it about. That you may know this, Hegio, with praises do I call supreme Jove to witness that I will not prove unfaithful to Philocrates ——

HEGIO
You are a worthy fellow.

PHILOCRATES
And that I will never in anything act otherwise towards him than towards my own self.

TYNDARUS
I wish you to put these speeches to the test, both by your deeds and your actions; and inasmuch as I have said the less about you than I had wished, I wish you the more to give me your attention, and take you care not to be angry with me by reason of these words. But, I beseech you, reflect that you are sent hence home with a price set upon you at my risk, and that my life is here left as a pledge for you. Do not you forget me the very moment that you have left my presence, since you will have left me here behind a captive in captivity for yourself, and don't consider yourself as free, and

forsake your pledge, and not use your endeavours for you to bring his son home again, in return for me. Understand that you are sent hence valued at twenty minæ. Take care to prove scrupulously faithful; take care that you show not a wavering fidelity. For my father, I am sure, will do everything that he ought to do. Preserve me as a constant friend to you, and find out this person so lately discovered. These things, by your right hand, holding you with my own right hand, do I beg of you; do not prove less true to me than I have proved to you. This matter do you attend to; you are now my master, you my patron, you my father; to you do I commend my hopes and my fortunes.

PHILOCRATES
You have given injunctions enough. Are you satisfied if I bring back accomplished what you have enjoined?

TYNDARUS
Satisfied.

PHILOCRATES
to HEGIO . According to your wishes, and *to TYNDARUS* according to yours, will I return hither provided. Is there anything else?

TYNDARUS
For you to return back as soon as ever you can.

PHILOCRATES
The business itself reminds me of that.

HEGIO
to PHILOCRATES . Follow me, that I may give you your expenses for the journey at my banker's; on the same occasion I'll get a passport from the Prætor.

TYNDARUS
What passport?

HEGIO
For him to take with him hence to the army, that he may be allowed

to go home from here. *To TYNDARUS.* You go in-doors.

TYNDARUS
Speed you well.

PHILOCRATES
Right heartily, farewell. *TYNDARUS goes into the house.*

HEGIO
aside . I' faith, I compassed my design, when I purchased these men of the Quæstors out of the spoil. I have released my son from slavery, if so it pleases the Gods; and yet I hesitated a long time whether I should purchase or should not purchase these persons. Watch that man indoors, if you please, you servants, that he may nowhere move a foot without a guard. I shall soon make my appearance at home; now I'm going to my brother's, to see my other captives; at the same time I'll enquire whether any one knows this young man. *To PHILOCRATES.* Do you follow, that I may despatch you. I wish attention first to be paid to that matter. *(Exeunt.)*

ACT III.

Enter ERGASILUS.

ERGASILUS
Wretched is that man who is in search of something to eat, and finds that with difficulty; but more wretched is he who both seeks with difficulty, and finds nothing at all; most wretched is he, who, when he desires to eat, has not that which he may eat. But, by my faith, if I only could, I'd willingly tear out the eyes of this day; — with such enmity has it filled all people towards me. One more starved out I never did see, nor one more filled with hunger, nor one who prospers less in whatever he begins to do. So much do my stomach and my throat take rest on these fasting holidays. Away with the profession of a Parasite to very utter and extreme perdition! so much in these days do the young men drive away from them the needy drolls. They care nothing now-a-days for these Laconian men of the lowest benches — these whipping-posts, who have their clever sayings without provision and without money. They now-a-days seek those who, when they've eaten at their pleasure, may give them a return at their own houses. They go themselves to market, which formerly was the province of the Parasites. They go themselves from the Forum to the procurers with face as exposed as the magistrates in court, with face exposed, condemn those who are found guilty; nor do they now value buffoons at one farthing; all are so much in love with themselves. For, when, just now, I went away from here, I came to some young men in the Forum: "Good morrow," said I; "whither are we going together to breakfast?" On this, they were silent. "Who says, 'here, at my house,' or who makes an offer?" said I. Just like dumb men, they were silent, and didn't smile at me. "Where do we dine?" said I. On this they declined. I said one funny saying out of my best bon mots, by which I formerly used to get feasting for a month; not an individual smiled; at once I knew that the matter was arranged by concert. Not even one was willing to imitate a dog when provoked; if they didn't laugh, they might, at least, have grinned with their teeth. From them I went away, after I saw that I was thus made

sport of. I went to some others; then to some others I came; then to some others — the same the result. All treat the matter in confederacy, just like the oil-merchants in the Velabrum. Now, I've returned thence, since I see myself made sport of there. In like manner do other Parasites walk to and fro, to no purpose, in the Forum. Now, after the foreign fashion, I'm determined to enforce all my rights. Those who have entered into a confederacy, by which to deprive us of food and life, — for them I'll name a day. I'll demand, as the damages, that they shall give me ten dinners at my own option, when provisions are dear: thus will I do. Now I'll go hence to the harbour. There, is my only hope of a dinner; if that shall fail me, I'll return here to the old gentleman, to his unsavoury dinner.

Enter HEGIO and ARISTOPHONTES.

HEGIO
to himself . What is there more delightful than to manage one's own interests well for the public good, just as I did yesterday, when I purchased these men. Every person, as they see me, comes to meet me, and congratulates me on this matter. By thus stopping and detaining unlucky me, they've made me quite tired. With much ado have I survived from being congratulated, to my misfortune. At last, to the Prætor did I get. There, scarcely did I rest myself. I asked for a passport; it was given me: at once I delivered it to Tyndarus. He started for home. Thence, straightway, after that was done, I passed by my house; and I went at once to my brother's, where my other captives are. I asked about Philocrates from Elis, whether any one of them all knew the person. This man *pointing to ARISTOPHONTES* called out that he had been his intimate friend; I told him that he was at my house. At once he besought and entreated me that I would permit him to see him. Forthwith I ordered him to be released from chains. Thence have I come. *To ARISTOPHONTES.* Now, do you follow me, that you may obtain what you have besought of me, the opportunity of meeting with this person. *They go into the house.*

Enter TYNDARUS, from the house.

TYNDARUS
Now stands the matter so, that I would much rather that I had once existed, than that I still exist; now do my hopes, my resources, and my succour, desert me and spurn themselves. This is that day, when, for my life, no safety can be hoped; nor yet is death my end; nor hope is there, in fact, to dispel this fear for me; nor cloak have I anywhere for my deceitful stratagems; nor for my devices or my subterfuges is there anywhere a screen presented to me. No deprecating is there for my perfidy; no means of flight for my offences. No refuge is there anywhere for my trusting; and no escape for my cunning schemes. What was concealed is now exposed; my plans are now divulged. The whole matter is now laid open; nor is there any ado about this matter, but that I must perish outright, and meet with destruction, both on behalf of my master and myself. This Aristophontes has proved my ruin, who has just now come into the house. He knows me. He is the intimate friend and kinsman of Philocrates. Not Salvation herself can save me now, even if she wishes; nor have I any means of escape, unless, perchance, I devise some artifice in my mind. *He meditates.* Plague on it!-how? What can I contrive? — what can I think of? Some very great folly and trifling I shall have to begin with. I'm quite at a loss. *He retires aside.*

Enter HEGIO, ARISTOPHONTES, and SLAVES, from the house

HEGIO
Whither am I to say, now, that this man has betaken himself from the house out of doors?

TYNDARUS
apart . Now, for a very certainty, I'm done for; the enemies are coming to you, Tyndarus! What shall I say? — what shall I talk of? What shall I deny, or what confess? All matters are reduced to uncertainty. How shall I place confidence in my resources? I wish the Gods had destroyed you, before you were lost to your own country, Aristophontes, who, from a plot well concerted, are making it disconcerted. This plan is ruined outright, unless I find out for myself

some extremely bold device.

HEGIO
to ARISTOPHONTES . Follow me. See, there is the man; go to him and address him.

TYNDARUS
aside, and turning away . What mortal among mortals is there more wretched than myself?

ARISTOPHONTES
coming up to him . Why's this, that I'm to say that you are avoiding my gaze, Tyndarus? And why that you are slighting me as a stranger, as though you had never known me? Why, I'm as much a slave as yourself; although at home I was a free man, you, even from your childhood, have always served in slavery in Elis.

HEGIO
I' faith, I'm very little surprised, if either he does avoid your gaze, or if he does shun you, who are calling him Tyndarus, instead of Philocrates.

TYNDARUS
Hegio, this person was accounted a madman in Elis. Don't you give ear to what he prates about; for at home he has pursued his father and mother with spears, and that malady sometimes comes upon him which is spit out Do you this instant stand away at a distance from him.

HEGIO
to the SLAVES . Away with him further off from me.

ARISTOPHONTES
Do you say, you whipp'd knave, that I am mad, and do you declare that I have followed my own father with spears? And that I have that malady, that it's necessary for me to be spit upon?

HEGIO

Don’t be dismayed; that malady afflicts many a person to whom it has proved wholesome to be spit upon, and has been of service to them.

ARISTOPHONTES
Why, what do you say? Do you, too, credit him?

HEGIO
Credit him in what?

ARISTOPHONTES
That I am mad?

TYNDARUS
Do you see him, with what a furious aspect he’s looking at you? ‘Twere best to retire, Hegio; it is as I said, his frenzy grows apace; have a care for yourself.

HEGIO
I thought that he was mad, the moment that he called you Tyndarus.

TYNDARUS
Why, he’s sometimes ignorant of his own name, and doesn’t know what it is.

HEGIO
But he even said that you were his intimate friend.

TYNDARUS
So far from that, I never saw him. Why, really, Alcmæon, and Orestes, and Lycurgus besides, are my friends on the same principle that he is.

ARISTOPHONTES
Villain, and do you dare speak ill of me, as well? Do I not know you?

HEGIO

I' faith, it really is very clear that you don't know him, who are calling him Tyndarus, instead of Philocrates. Him whom you see, you don't know; you are addressing him as the person whom you don't see.

ARISTOPHONTES
On the contrary this fellow's saying that he is the person who he is not; and he says that he is not the person who he really is.

TYNDARUS
You've been found, of course, to excel Philocrates in truthfulness.

ARISTOPHONTES
By my troth, as I understand the matter, you've been found to brazen out the truth by lying. But i' faith, prithee, come then, look at me.

TYNDARUS
looking at him . Well! ARIST. Say, now; do you deny that you are Tyndarus?

TYNDARUS
I do deny it, I say.

ARISTOPHONTES
Do you say that you are Philocrates?

TYNDARUS
I do say so, I say.

ARISTOPHONTES
to HEGIO . And do you believe him?

HEGIO
More, indeed, than either you or myself. For he, in fact, who you say that he is *pointing to TYNDARUS* , has set out hence to-day for Elis, to this person's father.

ARISTOPHONTES

What father, when he's a slave.

TYNDARUS
And so are you a slave, and yet you were a free man; and I trust that so I shall be, if I restore his son here to liberty.

ARISTOPHONTES
How say you, villain? Do you say that you were born a free man [liber]?

TYNDARUS
> I really do not say that I am Liber, but that I am Philocrates.

ARISTOPHONTES
How's this? How this scoundrel, Hegio, is making sport of you now. For he's a slave himself, and never, except his own self, had he a slave.

TYNDARUS
Because you yourself are destitute in your own country, and haven't whereon to live at home, you wish all to be found like to yourself; you don't do anything surprising. 'Tis the nature of the distressed to be ill-disposed, and to envy the fortunate.

ARISTOPHONTES
Hegio, take you care, please, that you don't persist in rashly placing confidence in this man; for so far as I see, he is certainly now putting some device in execution, in saying that he is redeeming your son from captivity; that is by no means satisfactory to me.

TYNDARUS
I know that you don't wish that to be done; still I shall effect it, if the Gods assist me. I shall bring him back here, and he will restore me to my father, in Elis. For that purpose have I sent Tyndarus hence to my father.

ARISTOPHONTES
Why, you yourself are he; nor is there any slave in Elis of that name,

except yourself.

TYNDARUS
Do you persist in reproaching me with being a slave — a thing that has befallen me through the fortune of war?

ARISTOPHONTES
Really, now, I cannot contain myself.

TYNDARUS
to HEGIO . Ha! don't you hear him? Why don't you take to flight? He'll be pelting us just now with stones there, unless you order him to be seized.

ARISTOPHONTES
I'm distracted.

TYNDARUS
His eyes strike fire; there's need of a rope, Hegio. Don't you see how his body is spotted all over with livid spots? Black bile is disordering the man.

ARISTOPHONTES
And, by my faith, if this old gentleman is wise, black pitch will be disordering you with the executioner, and giving a light to your head.

TYNDARUS
He's now talking in his fit of delirium; sprites are in possession of the man.

HEGIO
By my troth, suppose I order him to be seized?

TYNDARUS
You would be acting more wisely.

ARISTOPHONTES
I'm vexed that I haven't a stone, to knock out the brains of that whip-

scoundrel, who's driving me to madness by his taunts.

TYNDARUS
Don't you hear that he's looking for a stone?

ARISTOPHONTES
I wish to speak with you alone, separately, Hegio.

HEGIO
Speak from where you are, if you want anything; though at a distance, I shall hear you.

TYNDARUS
Yes, for, by my faith, if you approach nearer, he'll be taking your nose off with his teeth.

ARISTOPHONTES
By heavens, Hegio, don't you believe that I am mad, or that I ever was so, or that I have the malady which that fellow avers. But if you fear anything from me, order me to be bound; I wish it, so long as that fellow is bound as well.

TYNDARUS
Why really, Hegio, rather let him be bound that wishes it.

ARISTOPHONTES
Now hold your tongue! I'll make you, you false Philocrates, to be found out this day to be a real Tyndarus. Why are you making signs at me?

TYNDARUS
I, making signs at you? *To HEGIO.* What would he do, if you were at a greater distance off?

HEGIO
What do you say? What if I approach this madman?

TYNDARUS

Nonsense; you'll be made a fool of; he'll be prating stuff, to you, neither the feet nor the head of which will ever be visible. The dress only is wanting; in seeing this man, you behold Ajax himself.

HEGIO
I don't care; still I'll approach him. *Advances to ARISTOPHONTES.*

TYNDARUS
aside . Now am I utterly undone; now between the sacrifice and the stone do I stand, nor know I what to do.

HEGIO
I lend you my attention, Aristophontes, if there is anything that you would wish with me.

ARISTOPHONTES
From me you shall hear that truth, which now you think to be false, Hegio. But I wish, in the first place, to clear myself from this with you — that madness does not possess me, and that I have no malady, except that I am in captivity; and, so may the King of Gods and of men make me to regain my native land, that fellow there is no more Philocrates than either I or you.

HEGIO
Come, then, tell me who he is?

ARISTOPHONTES
He whom I've told you all along from the beginning. If you shall find him any other than that person, I show no cause why I shouldn't suffer the loss with you both of my parents and of my liberty for ever.

HEGIO
to TYNDARUS . What say you to this?

TYNDARUS
That I am your slave, and you my master.

HEGIO
I didn’t ask that — were you a free man?

TYNDARUS
I was.

ARISTOPHONTES
But he really wasn’t; he is deceiving you.

TYNDARUS
How do you know? Were you, perchance, the midwife of my mother, since you dare to affirm this so boldly?

ARISTOPHONTES
When a boy, I saw yourself, a boy.

TYNDARUS
But, grown up, I now see you grown up; so, there’s for you, in return. If you did right, you wouldn’t be troubling yourself about my concerns; do I trouble myself about yours?

HEGIO
Was his father called Thesaurochrysonicocrœsides?

ARISTOPHONTES
He was not; and I never heard that name before this day. Theodoromedes was the father of Philocrates.

TYNDARUS
aside . I’m downright undone. Why don’t you be quiet, heart of mine? Go and be stretched, and hang yourself; you are throbbing so, that unfortunate I can hardly stand up for my fear.

HEGIO
Is a full assurance given me that this was a slave in Elis, and that he is not Philocrates?

ARISTOPHONTES

So fully, that you will never find this to be otherwise; but where is he now?

HEGIO
Where I the least, and he the most could wish himself. In consequence, then, I'm cut asunder, disjointed, to my sorrow, by the devices of this scoundrel, who has bamboozled me by his tricks just as he has thought fit. But do, please, have a care that you are right.

ARISTOPHONTES
Why, I assure you of this, as an ascertained and established fact.

HEGIO
For certain?

ARISTOPHONTES
Why, nothing, I say, will you find more certain than this certainty. Philocrates, from when a boy, has ever since that time been my friend.

HEGIO
But of what appearance is your friend Philocrates?

ARISTOPHONTES
I'll tell you: with a thin face, sharp nose, light hair, dark eyes, somewhat ruddy, with hair rather crisp and curling,

HEGIO
The description is like.

TYNDARUS
aside . Aye, so much so, indeed, that I've this day, much to my sorrow, got into the midst of this, i' faith. Woe to those unfortunate rods which this day will be meeting their end upon my back.

HEGIO
I see that I've been imposed upon.

TYNDARUS
aside . Why, fetters, do you delay to run towards me and to embrace my legs, that I may have you in custody?

>HEG.
And have these two rascally captives really deceived me this day with their tricks? The other one pretended that he was the servant, and this one that he himself was the master. I've lost the kernel; for a security, I've left the shell. To such a degree have they imposed upon me, both on this side and that, with their trickeries. Still, this fellow shall never have the laugh against me. Colaphus, Cordalio, Corax *to the SLAVES* , go you away and bring out the thongs.

A SLAVE
Are we to be sent to gather faggots? *The SLAVES go and bring the thongs from the house.*

HEGIO, TYNDARUS, ARISTOPHONTES, and SLAVES

HEGIO
to the SLAVES . Put the manacles on this whipp'd villain.

TYNDARUS
whilst the SLAVES are fastening him . What's the matter? What have I done wrong?

HEGIO
Do you ask the question? You weeder and sower of villanies, and in especial their reaper.

TYNDARUS
Ought you not to have ventured to say the harrower first? For countrymen always harrow before they weed.

HEGIO
Why, with what assurance he stands before me.

TYNDARUS

It's proper for a servant, innocent and guiltless, to be full of confidence, most especially before his master.

HEGIO
to the SLATES . Bind this fellow's hands tightly, will you.

TYNDARUS
I am your own — do you command them to be cut off even. But what is the matter on account of which you blame me?

HEGIO
Because me and my fortunes, so far as in you singly lay, by your rascally and knavish stratagems you have rent in pieces, and have distracted my affairs and spoiled all my resources and my plans, in that you've thus robbed me of Philocrates by your devices, I thought that he was the slave, you the free man. So did you say yourselves, and in this way did you change names between you.

TYNDARUS
I confess that all was done so, as you say, and that by a stratagem he has got away from you, through my aid and cleverness; and prithee, now, do you blame me for that, i' faith?

HEGIO
Why, it has been done with your extreme torture for the consequence.

TYNDARUS
So I don't die by reason of my misdeeds, I care but little. If I do die here, then he returns not, as he said he would; but when I'm dead, this act will be remembered to my honor, that I caused my captive master to return from slavery and the foe, a free man, to his father in his native land; and that I preferred rather to expose my own life to peril, than that he should be undone.

HEGIO
Take care, then, to enjoy that fame at Acheron.

TYNDARUS
He who dies for virtue's sake, still does not perish.

HEGIO
When I've tortured you in the most severe manner, and for your schemes put you to death, let them say either that you have perished or that you have died; so long as you do die, I don't think it matters if they say you live.

TYNDARUS
I' faith, if you do do so, you'll do it not without retribution, if he shall return here, as I trust that he will return.

ARISTOPHONTES
aside . O ye immortal Gods! I understand it now; now I know what the case really is. My friend Philocrates is at liberty with his father, in his native land. 'Tis well; nor have I any person to whom I could so readily wish well. But this thing grieves me, that I've done this person a bad turn, who now on account of me and my talking is in chains.

HEGIO
to TYNDARUS . Did I not forbid you this day to utter anything false to me?

TYNDARUS
You did forbid me.

HEGIO
Why did you dare to tell me lies?

TYNDARUS
Because the truth would have prejudiced him whom I was serving; now falsehood has advantaged him.

HEGIO
But it will prejudice yourself.

TYNDARUS
’Tis very good. Still, I have saved my master, whom I rejoice at being saved, to whom my elder master had assigned me as a protector. But do you think that this was wrongly done?

HEGIO
Most wrongfully.

TYNDARUS
But I, who disagree with you, say, rightly. For consider, if any slave of yours had done this for your son, what thanks you would have given him. Would you have given that slave his freedom or not? Would not that slave have been in highest esteem with you? Answer me that.

HEGIO
I think so.

TYNDARUS
Why, then, are you angry with me?

HEGIO
Because you have proved more faithful to him than to myself.

TYNDARUS
How now? Did you expect, in a single night and day, for yourself to teach me — a person just made captive, a recent slave, and in his noviciate — that I should rather consult your interest than his, with whom from childhood I have passed my life?

HEGIO
Seek, then, thanks from him for that. *To the SLAVES.* Take him where he may receive weighty and thick fetters, thence, after that, you shall go to the quarries for cutting stone. There, while the others are digging out eight stones, unless you daily do half as much work again, you shall have the name of the six-hundred-stripe man.

ARISTOPHONTES

By Gods and men, I do entreat you, Hegio, not to destroy this man.

HEGIO
He shall be taken all care of For at night, fastened with chains, he shall be watched; in the daytime, beneath the ground, he shall be getting out stone. For many a day will I torture him; I'll not respite him for a single day.

ARISTOPHONTES
Is that settled by you?

HEGIO
Not more settled that I shall die. *To the SLAVES.* Take him away this instant to Hippolytus, the blacksmith; bid thick fetters to be rivetted on him. From there let him be led outside the gate to my freedman, Cordalus, at the stone-quarries. And tell him that I desire this man so to be treated, that he mayn't be in any respect worse off than he who is the most severely treated.

TYNDARUS
Why, since you are unwilling, do I desire myself to survive? At your own hazard is the risk of my life. After death, no evil have I to apprehend in death. Though I should live even to extreme age, still, short is the space for enduring what you threaten me with. Farewell and prosper although you are deserving for me to say otherwise. You, Aristophontes, as you have deserved of me, so fare you; for on your account has this befallen me.

>HEG.
to the SLAVES . Carry him off.

TYNDARUS
But this one thing I beg, that, if Philocrates should come back here, you will give me an opportunity of meeting him.

HEGIO
to the SLAVES . At your peril, if you don't this instant remove him from my sight. *The SLAVES lay hold of TYNDARUS, and push him*

along.

TYNDARUS
I' troth, this really is violence, to be both dragged and pushed at the same time. *He is borne off by the SLAVES.*

HEGIO
He has been led off straight to prison as he deserves. Let no one presume to attempt such an enterprise. Had it not been for you who discovered this to me, still would they have been leading me by the bridle with their tricks. Now am I resolved henceforth never to trust any person in anything. This once I have been deceived enough; I did hope, to my sorrow, that I had rescued my son from slavery. That hope has forsaken me. I lost one son, whom, a child in his fourth year, a slave stole from me; and, indeed, never since have I found either slave or son; the elder one has fallen in the hands of the enemy. What guilt is this of mine? As though I had become the father of children for the purpose of being childless. *To AISTOPHONTES.* Follow this way. I'll conduct you back where you were. I'm determined to have pity upon no one, since no one has pity upon me.

ARISTOPHONTES
Forth from my chains with evil omen did I come; now I perceive that with like ill omen to my bonds I must return. *(Exeunt.)*

ACT IV.

Enter ERGASILUS

ERGASILUS
Supreme Jove! thou dost preserve me, and dost augment my means. Plenty, extreme and sumptuous, dost thou present to me; celebrity, profit, enjoyment, mirth, festivity, holidays, sights, provisions, carousings, abundance, joyousness. And to no man have I now determined with myself to go a-begging; for I'm able either to profit my friend or to destroy my enemy, to such extent has this delightful day heaped delights upon me in its delightfulness. I have lighted upon a most rich inheritance without incumbrances. Now will I wend my way to this old gentleman Hegio, to whom I am carrying blessings as great as he himself prays for from the Gods, and even greater. Now, this is my determination, in the same fashion that the slaves of Comedy are wont, so will I throw my cloak around my neck, that from me, the first of all, he may learn this matter. And I trust that I, by reason of this news, shall find provision up to the end.

Enter HEGIO, at a distance.

HEGIO
to himself . The more that I revolve this matter in my breast, the more is my uneasiness of mind increased. That I should have been duped in this fashion to-day! and that I wasn't able to see through it! When this shall be known, then I shall be laughed at all over the city. The very moment that I shall have reached the Forum, all will be saying, "This is that clever old gentleman, who had the trick played him." But is this Ergasilus, that I see coming at a distance? Surely he has got his cloak gathered up; what, I wonder, is he going to do?

ERGASILUS
advancing, and talking to himself . Throw aside from you all tardiness, Ergasilus, and speed on this business. I threaten, and I strictly charge no person to stand in my way, unless any one shall be of opinion that he has lived long enough. For whoever does come in

my way, shall stop me upon his face. *He runs along, flourishing his arms about.*

HEGIO
to himself . This fellow's beginning to box.

ERGASILUS
to himself . I'm determined to do it; so that every one may pursue his own path, let no one be bringing any of his business in this street; for my fist is a balista, my arm is my catapulta, my shoulder a battering-ram; then against whomsoever I dart my knee, I shall bring him to the ground. I'll make all persons to be picking up their teeth, whomsoever I shall meet with.

HEGIO
to himself . What threatening is this? For I cannot wonder enough.

ERGASILUS
I'll make him always to remember this day and place, and myself as well. Whoever stops me upon my road, I'll make him put a stop to his own existence.

HEGIO
to himself . What great thing is this fellow preparing to do, with such mighty threats?

ERGASILUS
I first give notice, that no one, by reason of his own fault, may be caught — keep yourselves in-doors at home, and guard yourselves from my attack.

HEGIO
to himself . By my faith, 'tis strange if he hasn't got this boldness by means of his stomach. Woe to that wretched man, through whose cheer this fellow has become quite swaggering.

ERGASILUS
Then the bakers, that feed swine, that fatten their pigs upon refuse

bran, through the stench of which no one can pass by a baker's shop; if I see the pig of any one of them in the public way, I'll beat the bran out of the masters' themselves with my fists.

HEGIO
to himself . Royal and imperial edicts does he give out. The fellow is full; he certainly has his boldness from his stomach.

ERGASILUS
Then the fishmongers, who supply stinking fish to the public — who are carried about on a gelding, with his galloping galling pace — the stench of whom drives all the loungers in the Basilica into the Forum, I'll bang their heads with their bulrush fish-baskets, that they may understand what annoyance they cause to the noses of other people. And then the butchers, as well, who render the sheep destitute of their young-who agree with you about killing lamb, and then offer you lamb at double the price — who give the name of wether mutton to a ram — if I should only see that ram in the public way, I'll make both ram and owner most miserable beings.

HEGIO
to hieiself . Well done! He really does give out edicts fit for an Ædile, and 'tis indeed a surprising thing if the Ætolians haven't made him inspector of markets.

ERGASILUS
No Parasite now am I, but a right royal king of kings; so large a stock of provision for my stomach is there at hand in the harbour. But why delay to overwhelm this old gentleman Hegio with gladness? With him, not a person among mankind exists equally fortunate.

HEGIO
apart . What joy is this, that he, thus joyous, is going to impart to me?

ERGASILUS
knocking at HEGIO'S door . Hallo, hallo! — where are you? Is any one coming to open this door?

HEGIO
apart . This fellow's betaking himself to my house to dine.

ERGASILUS
Open you both these doors, before I shall with knocking cause the destruction, piecemeal, of the doors.

HEGIO
apart . I'd like much to address the fellow. *Aloud.* Ergasilus!

ERGASILUS
Who's calling Ergasilus?

HEGIO
Turn round, and look at me.

ERGASILUS
not seeing who it is . A thing that Fortune does not do for you, nor ever will do, you bid me to do. But who is it.

HEGIO
Look round at me. 'Tis Hegio.

ERGASILUS
turning round . O me! Best of the very best of men, as many as exist, you have arrived opportunely.

HEGIO
You've met with some one at the harbour to dine with; through that you are elevated.

ERGASILUS
Give me your hand.

HEGIO
My hand?

ERGASILUS

Give me your hand, I say, this instant.

HEGIO
Take it. *Giving him his hand.*

ERGASILUS
Rejoice.

HEGIO
Why should I rejoice?

ERGASILUS
Because I bid you; come now, rejoice.

HEGIO
I' faith, my sorrows exceed my rejoicings.

ERGASILUS
'Tis not so, as you shall find; I'll at once drive away every spot of sorrow from your body. Rejoice without restraint.

HEGIO
I do rejoice, although I don't at all know why I should rejoice.

ERGASILUS
You do rightly; now order ——

HEGIO
Order what?

ERGASILUS
A large fire to be made.

HEGIO
A large fire?

ERGASILUS
So I say, that a huge one it must be.

HEGIO
What, you vulture, do you suppose that for your sake I'm going to set my house on fire?

ERGASILUS
Don't be angry. Will you order, or will you not order, the pots to be put on, and the saucepans to be washed out, the bacon and the dainties to be made warm in the heated cooking-stoves, another one, too, to go purchase the fish?

HEGIO
This fellow's dreaming while awake.

ERGASILUS
Another to buy pork, and lamb, and pullets.

HEGIO
You understand how to feed well, if you had the means.

ERGASILUS
Gammons of bacon, too, and lampreys, spring pickled tunny-fish, mackerel, and sting-ray; large fish, too, and soft cheese.

HEGIO
You will have more opportunity, Ergasilus, here at my house, of talking about these things than of eating them.

ERGASILUS
Do you suppose that I'm saying this on my own account?

HEGIO
You will neither be eating nothing here to-day, nor yet much more than usual, so don't you be mistaken. Do you then bring an appetite to my house for your every-day fare.

ERGASILUS
Why, I'll so manage it, that you yourself shall wish to be profuse, though I myself should desire you not.

HEA.
What, I?

ERGASILUS
Yes, you.

HEGIO
Then you are my master.

ERGASILUS
Yes, and a kindly disposed one. Do you wish me to make you happy?

HEGIO
Certainly I would, rather than miserable.

ERGASILUS
Give me your hand.

HEGIO
extending his hand . Here is my hand.

ERGASILUS
All the Gods are blessing you.

HEGIO
I don’t feel it so.

ERGASILUS
Why, you are not in a quickset hedge, therefore you don’t feel it; but order the vessels, in a clean state, to be got for you forthwith in readiness for the sacrifice, and one lamb to be brought here with all haste, a fat one.

HEGIO
Why?

ERGASILUS

That you may offer sacrifice

HEGIO
To which one of the Gods?

ERGASILUS
To myself, i' faith, for now am I your supreme Jupiter. I likewise am your salvation, your fortune, your life, your delight, your joy. Do you at once, then, make this Divinity propitious to you by cramming him.

HEGIO
You seem to me to be hungry.

ERGASILUS
For myself am I hungry, and not for you.

HEGIO
I readily allow of it at your own good will.

ERGASILUS
I believe you; from a boy you were in the habit —

HEGIO
May Jupiter and the Gods confound you.

ERGASILUS
I' troth, 'tis fair that for my news you should return me thanks; such great happiness do I now bring you from the harbour.

HEGIO
Now you are flattering me. Begone, you simpleton; you have arrived behind time, too late.

ERGASILUS
If I had come sooner, then for that reason you might rather have said that. Now, receive this joyous news of me which I bring you; for at the harbour I just now saw your son Philopolemus in the common fly-boat, alive, safe and sound, and likewise there that other young

man together with him, and Stalagmus your slave, who fled from your house, who stole from you your little son, the child of four years old.

HEGIO
Away with you to utter perdition! You are trifling with me.

ERGASILUS
So may holy Gluttony love me, Hegio, and so may she ever dignify me with her name, I did see ——

HEGIO
My son?

ERGASILUS
Your son, and my good Genius.

HEGIO
That Elean captive, too?

ERGASILUS
Yes, by Apollo

HEGIO
The slave, too? My slave Stalagmus, he that stole my son —— ?

ERGASILUS
Yes, by Cora.

HEGIO
So long a time ago?

ERGASILUS
Yes, by Præneste!

HEGIO
Is he arrived?

ERGASILUS

Yes, by Signia!

HEGIO
For sure?

ERGASILUS
Yes, by Phrysinone!

HEGIO
Have a care, if you please.

ERGASILUS
Yes, by Alatrium!

HEGIO
Why are you swearing by foreign cities?

ERGASILUS
Why, because they are just as disagreable as you were declaring your fare to be.

HEGIO
Woe be to you!

ERGASILUS
Because that you don't believe me at all in what I say in sober earnestness. But of what country was Stalagmus, at the time when ne departed hence?

HEGIO
A Sicilian.

ERGASILUS
But now he is not a Sicilian — he is a Boian; he has got a Boian woman. A wife, I suppose, has been given to him for the sake of obtaining children.

HEGIO

Tell me, have you said these words to me in good earnest?

ERGASILUS
In good earnest.

HEGIO
Immortal Gods, I seem to be born again, if you are telling the truth.

ERGASILUS
Do you say so? Will you still entertain doubts, when I have solemnly sworn to you? In fine, Hegio, if you have little confidence in my oath, go yourself to the harbour and see.

HEGIO
I'm determined to do so. Do you arrange in-doors what's requisite. Use, ask for, take from my larder what you like; I appoint you cellarman.

ERGASILUS
Now, by my troth, if I have not prophesied truly to you, do you comb me out with a cudgel.

HEGIO
I'll find you in victuals to the end, if you are telling me the truth.

ERGASILUS
Whence shall it be?

HEGIO
From myself and from my son.

ERGASILUS
Do you promise that?

HEGIO
I do promise it.

ERGASILUS

But I, in return, promise you that your son has arrived.

HEGIO
Manage as well as ever you can.

ERGASILUS
A happy walk there to you, and a happy walk back. *(Exit HEGIO.)*

ERGASILUS, alone

ERGASILUS
He has gone away from here, and has entrusted to me the most important concern of catering. Immortal Gods how I shall now be slicing necks off of sides; how vast a downfall will befall the gammon; how vast a belabouring the bacon! How great a using-up of udders, how vast a bewailing for the brawn! How great a bestirring for the butchers, how great a preparation for the porksellers! But if I were to enumerate the rest of the things which minister to the supply of the stomach, 'twould be sheer delay. Now will I go off to my government, to give laws to the bacon, and, those gammons that are hanging uncondemned, to give aid to them. *Goes into the house.*

Enter a LAD, a servant of HEGIO.

A LAD
May Jupiter and the Deities confound you, Ergasilus, and your stomach, and all Parasites, and every one who henceforth shall give a dinner to Parasites. Destruction and devastation and ruin have just now entered our house. I was afraid that he would be making an attack on me, as though he had been an hungry wolf. And very dreadfully, upon my faith, was I frightened at him; he made such a gnashing with his teeth. On his arrival, the whole larder, with the meat, he turned upside down. He seized a knife, and first cut off the kernels of the neck from three sides. All the pots and cups he broke, except those that held a couple of gallons; of the cook he made enquiry whether the salting pans could be set on the fire to be made hot. All the cellars in the house he has broken into, and has laid the store-closet open. *At the door.* Watch him, servants, if you please;

I'll go to meet the old gentleman. I'll tell him to get ready some provisions for his own self, if, indeed, he wishes himself to make use of any. For in this place, as this man, indeed, is managing, either there's nothing already, or very soon there will be nothing. *(Exit.)*

ACT V.

Enter HEGIO, PHILOPOLEMUS, PHILOCRATES, and behind them, STALAGMUS.

HEGIO
To Jove and to the Deities I return with reason hearty thanks, inasmuch as they have restored you to your father, and inasmuch as they have delivered me from very many afflictions, which, while I was obliged to be here without you, I was enduring, and inasmuch as I see that that fellow *pointing to STALAGMUS* is in my power, and inasmuch as his word *pointing to PHILOCIATES* has been found true to me.

PHILOPOLEMUS
Enough now have I grieved from my very soul, and enough with care and tears have I disquieted myself. Enough now have I heard of your woes, which at the harbour you told me of. Let us now to this business.

PHILOCRATES
What now, since I've kept my word with you, and have caused him to be restored back again to freedom?

HEGIO
Philocrates, you have acted so that I can never return you thanks enough, in the degree that you merit from myself and my son.

PHILOPOLEMUS
Nay, but you can, father, and you will be able, and I shall be able; and the Divinities will give the means for you to return the kindness he merits to one who deserves so highly of us; as, my father, you are able to do to this person who so especially deserves it.

HEGIO
What need is there of words? I have no tongue with which to deny whatever you may ask of me.

PHILOCRATES
I ask of you to restore to me that servant whom I left here as a surety for myself; who has always proved more faithful to me than to himself; in order that for his services I may be enabled to give him a reward.

HEGIO
Because you have acted thus kindly, the favour shall be returned, the thing that you ask; both that and anything else that you shall ask of me, you shall obtain. And I would not have you blame me, because in my anger I have treated him harshly.

PHILOCRATES
What have you done?

HEGIO
I confined him in fetters at the stone-quarries, when I found out that I had been imposed upon.

PHILOCRATES
Ah wretched me! That for my safety misfortunes should have happened to that best of men.

HEGIO
Now, on this account, you need not give me even one groat of silver for him. Receive him of me without cost that he may be free.

PHILOCRATES
On my word, Hegio, you act with kindness; but I entreat that you will order this man to be sent for.

HEGIO
Certainly. *To the attendants, who immediately obey.* Where are you? Go this instant, and bring Tyndarus here. *To PHILOPOLEMUS and PHILOCRATES.* Do you go in-doors; in the meantime, I wish to enquire of this statue for whipping, what was done with my younger son. Do you go bathe in the meantime.

PHILOPOLEMUS
Philocrates, follow me this way in-doors.

PHILOCRATES
I follow you. *They go into the house.*

HEGIO and STALAGMUS.

HEGIO
Come you, step this way, you worthy fellow, my fine slave.

STALAGMUS
What is fitting for me to do, when you, such a man as you are, are speaking false? I was never a handsome, or a fine, or a good person, or an honest one, nor shall I ever be; assuredly, don't you be forming any hopes that I shall be honest.

HEGIO
You easily understand pretty well in what situation your fortunes are. If you shall prove truth-telling, you'll make your lot from bad somewhat better. Speak out, then, correctly and truthfully; but never yet truthfully or correctly have you acted.

STALAGMUS
Do you think that I'm ashamed to own it, when you affirm it?

HEGIO
But I'll make you to be ashamed; for I'll cause you to be blushes all over.

STALAGMUS
Heyday-you're threatening stripes, I suppose, to me, guite unaccustomed to them! Away with them, I beg. Tell me what you bring, that you may carry off hence what you are in want of.

HEGIO
Very fluent indeed. But now I wish this prating to be cut short.

HEGIO
As you desire, so be it done.

HEGIO
to the AUDIENCE . As a boy he was very obedient; now that suits him not. Let's to this business; now give your attention, and inform me upon what I ask. If you tell the truth, you'll make your fortunes somewhat better.

STALAGMUS
That's mere trifling. Don't you think that I know what I'm deserving of?

HEGIO
Still, it is in your power to escape a small portion of it, if not the whole.

STALAGMUS
A small portion I shall escape, I know; but much will befall me, and with my deserving it, because I both ran away, and stole your son and sold him.

HEGIO
To what person?

STALAGMUS
To Theodoromedes the Polyplusian, in Elis, for six minæ.

HEGIO
O ye immortal Gods! He surely is the father of this person, Philocrates.

STALAGMUS
Why, I know him better than yourself, and have seen him more times.

HEGIO
Supreme Jove, preserve both myself and my son for me. *He goes to*

the door, and calls aloud. Philocrates, by your good Genius, I do entreat you, come out, I want you.

Enter PHILOCRATES, from the house

PHILOCRATES
Hegio, here am I; if you want anything of me, command me.

HEGIO
He *pointing to STALAGMUS* declares that he sold my son to your father, in Elis, for six minæ.

PHILOCRATES
to STALAGMUS . How long since did that happen?

STALAGMUS
This is the twentieth year, commencing from it.

PHILOCRATES
He is speaking falsely.

STALAGMUS
Either I or you do. Why, your father gave you the little child, of four years old, to be your own slave.

PHILOCRATES
What was his name? If you are speaking the truth, tell me that, then.

STALAGMUS
Pægnium, he used to be called; afterwards, you gave him the name of Tyndarus.

PHILOCRATES
Why don't I recollect you?

STALAGMUS
Because it's the fashion for persons to forget, and not to know him whose favour is esteemed as worth nothing.

PHILOCRATES
Tell me, was he the person whom you sold to my father, who was given me for my private service?

STALAGMUS
It was his son *pointing to HEGIO* .

HEGIO
Is this person now living?

STALAGMUS
I received the money I cared nothing about the rest.

HEGIO
to PHILOCRATES . What do you say?

PHILOCRATES
Why, this very Tyndarus is your son, according, indeed, to the proofs that he mentions. For, a boy himself together with me from boyhood was he brought up, virtuously and modestly, even to manhood.

HEGIO
I am both unhappy and happy, if you are telling the truth. Unhappy for this reason, because, if he is my son, I have badly treated him. Alas! why have I done both more and less than was his due. That I have ill treated him I am grieved; would that it only could be undone. But see, he's coming here, in a guise not according to his deserts.

Enter TYNDARUS, in chains, led in by the SERVANTS.

TYNDARUS
to himself . I have seen many of the torments which take place at Acheron often represented in paintings; but most certainly there is no Acheron equal to where I have been in the stone-quarries. There, in fine, is the place where real lassitude must be undergone by the body in laboriousness. For when I came there, just as either jackdaws, or ducks, or quails, are given to Patrician children, for them to play with, so in like fashion, when I arrived, a crow was given me with

which to amuse myself. But see, my master's before the door; and lo! my other master has returned from Elis.

HEGIO
Hail to you, my much wished-for son.

TYNDARUS
Ha! how — my son? Aye, aye, I know why you pretend yourself to be the father, and me to be the son; it is because, just as parents do, you give me the means of seeing the light.

PHILOCRATES
Hail to you, Tyndarus.

TYNDARUS
And to you, for whose sake I am enduring these miseries.

PHILOCRATES
But now I'll make you in freedom come to wealth. For *pointing to HEGIO* this is your father; *pointing to STALAGMUS* that is the slave who stole you away from here when four years old, and sold you to my father for six minæ. He gave you, when a little child, to me a little child for my own service. He *pointing to STALAGMUS* has made a confession, for we have brought him back from Elis.

TYNDARUS
How, where's Hegio's son?

PHILOCRATES
Look now; indoors is your own brother.

TYNDARUS
How do you say? Have you brought that captive son of his?

PHILOCRATES
Why, he's in-doors, I say.

TYNDARUS

By my faith, you've done both well and happily.

PHILOCRATES
pointing to HEGIO . Now this is your own father; *pointing to STALAGMUS* this is the thief who stole you when a little child.

TYNDARUS
But now, grown up, I shall give him grown up to the executioner for his thieving.

PHILOCRATES
He deserves it.

TYNDARUS
I' faith, I'll deservedly give him the reward that he deserves. *To HEGIO.* But tell me I pray you, are you my father?

HEGIO
I am he, my son.

TYNDARUS
Now, at length, I bring it to my recollection, when I reconsider with myself: troth, I do now at last recall to memory that I had heard, as though through a mist, that my father was called Hegio.

HEGIO
I am he.

PHILOCRATES
I pray that your son may be lightened of these fetters, and this slave be loaded with them.

HEGIO
I'm resolved that that shall be the first thing attended to. Let's go in-doors, that the blacksmith may be sent for, in order that I may remove those fetters from you, and give them to him. *They go into the house.*

STALAGMUS
To one who has no savings of his own, you'll be rightly doing so.
coming forward.

Spectators, this play is founded on chaste manners. No wenching is there in this, and no intriguing, no exposure of a child, no cheating out of money; and no young man in love here make his mistress free without his father's know ledge. The Poets find but few Comedies of this kind, where good men might become better. Now, if it pleases you, and if we have pleased you, and have not been tedious, do you give this sign of it: you who wish that chaste manners should have their reward, give us your applause.

CASINA

Translated by Henry Thomas Riley

The play takes place on the streets of Athens and revolves around the beautiful girl, Casina, who is being fought over by two men. In her infancy, she was abandoned at the door of Lysidamus and his wife Cleostrata, and has been raised as a servant. Euthynicus, son of Lysidamus, has fallen in love with Casina and wants to marry her. As the wedding approaches, however, Lysidamus desires Casina for himself, and devises an elaborate ruse to remove Euthynicus to the country and have Casina marry his servant Olympio instead. Lysidamus would then be able to have sex with Casina whenever he wanted, and she would be the wife of his servant in name only: she would in effect become his concubine, without his own wife Cleostrata finding out. Cleostrata opposes his plan and wants Casina to marry her slave Chalinus, who would stand in for Euthynicus until his return from the country.

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THE SUBJECT.

A SERVANT, having obtained from a woman a female infant which was about to be exposed, brings it to his mistress, Cleostrata, who brings it up with the greatest care. The child is called Casina; and when she grows up, both Stalino, the husband, and Euthynicus, the son of Cleostrata, fall in love with her. Cleostrata, being aware of this, and favouring the passion of Euthynicus, is desirous to give Casina in marriage to Chalinus, his armour-bearer, as a covert method of putting her in the power of Euthynicus. On the other hand, Stalino wishes her to be married to Olympio, the bailiff of his farm, as a means of getting her into his own possession. It is at last arranged that the matter shall be decided by lot, which being drawn, Olympio is the winner. Cleostrata then resorts to a stratagem to defeat her husband's plan. With the assistance of Myrrhina and her own female servants, she dresses up Chalinus to represent Casina, who is taken by the bridegroom Olympio to a house in the vicinity, which has been secretly engaged by Stalino. The Play concludes with Olympio and Stalino rushing out of the house in dismay, after having been soundly beaten by Chalinus. Stalino implores pardon of his wife, which, at the intercession of Myrrhina, is granted. It is then discovered that Casina is really the daughter of Alcesimus, and the Audience is informed that she is to be given in marriage to Euthynicus.

THE ACROSTIC ARGUMENT.

[Supposed to have been written by Priscian the Grammarian.]

Two fellow-servants seek their fellow-servant (Conservam) as a wife; the old man prompts the one (Alium), his son the other. A decision by lot (Sors) favours the old man; but he is deceived by a stratagem; and so (Ita) for him, in place of the damsel, a rascally (Nequam) servant is substituted, who thrashes his master and the bailiff. The young man (Adolescens) marries Casina, when known to be a citizen.

THE PROLOGUE

The Prologue: This Prologue appears to have been written many years after the death of the author, and indeed bears internal marks of having been composed at a period nearer to the Augustan age than the time of Plautus. Judging, however, from the fourteenth line, there were, at the time when it was written, some persons still surviving who had been present at the original representation of the Play.
I bid you, most worthy Spectators, welcome; who most highly esteem the Goddess Faith, and Faith esteems you. If I have said the truth, then give me loud applause, that even now, from the very beginning forward, I may know that you are favourably disposed towards me. Those who make use of aged wine, I deem to be wise; and those as well, who, through choice, are the spectators of ancient Plays. Since antique works and words are pleasing to you, 'tis just that ancient Plays should in preference please you; for the new Comedies which come out now-a-days are much more worthless than the new-coined money. We, since we have heard the report in public, that you ardently wish for the Plays of Plautus, have brought forward this ancient Comedy of his, which you, who are among the older ones, have formerly approved. But I am aware that those who are among the younger ones are not acquainted with it; still, that they may make acquaintance with it, we will carefully use our best endeavours. When this was first represented, it surpassed all other Plays. In those days there was the very £elite of the poets, who have now departed hence to the place common to all. But though departed, yet do they prove of advantage to those who are still existing. All of you, with the greatest earnestness, I would have entreated that you'll kindly lend attention to this our company. Dismiss from your thoughts cares and monies due; let no man stand in dread of his duns. 'Tis a holiday this — to the bankers a holiday has been given. 'Tis now a calm; about the Forum these are Halcyon days. Reasonably do they act: during the games they ask no man for money; but during the games to no one do they pay. If your ears are disengaged, give me your attention; I wish to mention to you the name of the Play. "Clerumenæ" this Comedy is called in Greek; in Latin, "Sortientes."

Diphilus wrote it in Greek, and after that, over again, Plautus with the barking name in Latin afresh. Pointing to the house of STALINO. An old married man is living here; he has a son; he, with his father, is dwelling in this house. He has a certain slave, who with disease is confined — aye, faith, to his bed, he really is, that I may tell no lie. But sixteen years ago, it happened that on a time this servant, at early dawn, beheld a female child being exposed. He went at once to the woman who was exposing it, and begged her to give it to himself. He gained his request: he took it away, and carried it straight home. He gave it to his mistress, and entreated her to take care of it, and bring it up. His mistress did so; with great care she brought it up, as though it had been her own daughter, not much different. Since then she has grown up to that age to be able to prove an attraction to the men; but this old gentleman loves this girl distractedly, and, on the other hand, so does his son as well. Each of them now, on either side, is preparing his legions, both father and son, each unknown to the other. The father has deputed his bailiff to ask her as his wife; he hopes that, if she's given to him, an attraction out of doors will be, unknown to his wife, provided for him. But the son has deputed his armour-bearer to ask her for himself as a wife. He knows that if he gains that request, there will be an object for him to love, within his abode. The wife of the old gentleman has found out that he is gratifying his amorousness; for that reason, she is making common cause together with her son. But this father, when he found out that his son was in love with this same woman, and was a hindrance to him, sent the young man hence upon business abroad. His mother, understanding this, still lends him, though absent, her assistance. Don't you expect it; he will not, in this Play, to-day, return to the city. Plautus did not choose it: he broke down the bridge that lay before him in the way. There are some here, who, I fancy, are now saying among themselves, "Prithee, what means this, i' faith? — the marriage of a slave Are slaves to be marrying wives, or asking them for themselves? They've introduced something new — a thing that's done nowhere in the world." But I affirm that this is done in Greece, and at Carthage, and here in our own country, and in the Apulian country; and that the marriages of slaves are wont to be solemnized there with more fuss than even those of free persons. If

this is not the fact, if any one pleases, let him bet with me a stake towards a jug of honied wine, so long as a Carthaginian is the umpire in my cause, or a Greek in fact, or an Apulian. A pause. What now? You don't take it? No one's thirsty, I find. I'll return to that foundling girl, whom the two slaves are, with all their might, contending for as a wife. She'll be found to be both chaste and free, of freeborn parents, an Athenian girl, and assuredly of no immodesty at all will she be guilty in this Comedy at least. But i' faith, for sure, directly afterwards, when the Play is over, if any one offers the money, as I guess, she'll readily enter into matrimony with him, and not wait for good omens. Thus much I have to say. Farewell; be prosperous in your affairs, and conquer by true valour, as hitherto you've done.

ACT I.

Enter OLYMPIO, CHALINUS following him.

OLYMPIO
Isn't it to be allowed me for myself to speak and think about my own affairs by myself, just as I choose, without you as an overlooker? Why the plague are you following me about?

CHALINUS
Because I'm resolved, just like your shadow, wherever you go, to follow you about. Why troth, even if you are ready to go to the cross, I'm determined to follow you. Hence judge of the sequel, whether you can or not, by your artifices, slily deprive me of Casina for a wife, just as you are attempting.

OLYMPIO
What business have you with me?

CHALINUS
What say you, impudence? Why are you creeping about in the city, you bailiff, so very valuable in this place?

OLYMPIO
Because I choose.

CHALINUS
But why ain't you in the country, at your post of command? Why don't you rather pay attention to the business that has been entrusted to you, and keep yourself from meddling in city matters? Have you come hither to deprive me of my betrothed? Be off to the country — be off to your place of command, and be hanged to you.

OLYMPIO
Chalinus, I have not forgotten my duty. I've given charge to one who will still take care that all's right in the country. When I've got that for which I came hither to the city, to take her as my wife whom you

are dying for — the fair and charming Casina, your fellow-servant — when I've carried her off with myself into the country as my wife, I'll then stick fast in the country, at my post of command.

CHALINUS
What, you marry her? By my faith, 'twere better I should die by a halter, than that you should be the winner of her.

OLYMPIO
She's my prize; do you put yourself in a halter at once.

CHALINUS
Fellow, dug up from your own dunghill, is she to be your prize?

OLYMPIO
You'll find that such is the fact. Woe be unto you! in what a many ways, if I only live, I'll have you tormented at my wedding!

CHALINUS
What will you do to me?

OLYMPIO
What will I do to you? In the first place of all, you shall hold the lighted torch for this new-made bride of nine; that always, in future, you may be worthless, and not esteemed. Then next after that, when you get to the country-house, a single pitcher shall be found you, and a single path, a single spring, a single brass cauldron, and eight casks; and unless these shall be always kept filled, I'll load you with lashes. I'll make you so thoroughly bent with carrying water, that a horse's crupper might be manufactured out of you. And then, in future, unless in the country you either feed on pulse, or, like a worm, upon the soil, should you require to taste of any better food, never, upon my faith, is hunger as full of hungriness as I'll make you to be in the country. After that, when you're tired out, and starved with famine, care shall be taken that, at night, you go to bed as you deserve.

CHALINUS

What will you do?

OLYMPIO
You shall be shut up fast in a nook with bars, where you can listen while I'm caressing her, while she is saying to me, "My soul, my own Olympio, my life, my sweet, my delight, do let me kiss your dear eyes, my love! do, there's a dear, let yourself be loved! my own day of happiness, my sparrow-chick, my own dove, my leveret!" When these expressions shall be being uttered to me, then will you, you villain, be wriggling about like a mouse in the middle of the wall. Now, that you mayn't be trying to give me an answer, I'll off in-doors; I'm tired of your talk. *Goes into the house of STALINO.*

CHALINUS
I'll follow you. Here, indeed, on my word, assuredly you shall do nothing without me for an overlooker. *Follows him into the house.*

ACT II.

Enter CLEOSTRATA and PARDALISCA, from the house of STALINO.

CLEOSTRATA
at the door, to the SERVANTS, within . Seal fast the store-rooms, bring back the signet to me. I'm going here to my next door neighbour; if my husband wants me for anything, take care and send for me thence.

PARDALISCA
The old gentleman ordered a breakfast to be got ready for him to-day.

CLEOSTRATA
Tut! Hold your tongue, and be off. *PARDALISCA goes into the house.* I don't prepare it, and it shan't be cooked; since he sets himself against myself and his son, for the sake of his passion and his appetite. A disgraceful fellow that! I'll punish this lover with hunger, I'll punish him with thirst, with abuse, with hardships. By my faith, I'll thoroughly worry him with disagreable speeches; I'll make him to pass a life in future just as he deserves — fit food for Acheron, a hunter after iniquity, a stable of infamy! Now I'll away hence to my neighbours, to lament my lot. But the door makes a noise; and see, she's coming out of doors herself. On my word, I've not started for my call at a convenient time.

Enter MYRRHINA, from the house of ALCESIMUS.

MYRRHINA
to her SERVANTS, at the door . Follow me, my attendants, here next door. You there! Does any one hear this that I say? I shall be here, if my husband or any person shall seek me. Did I order my distaff to be taken there? For when I'm at home alone, drowsiness takes effect upon my hand.

CLEOSTRATA
Myrrhina, good morrow.

MYRRHINA
Good morrow, my dear Cleostrata. But, prithee, why are you sad?

CLEOSTRATA
So all are wont to be who are unfortunately married; at home and abroad, there's always enough to make them sad. But I was going to your house.

MYRRHINA
And, troth, I was coming here to yours. But what is it that now distresses your mind? For the thing that distresses you, that same is a trouble to me.

CLEOSTRATA
On my word, I do believe you. For with good reason no female neighbour of mine do I love better than yourself, nor any one with whom I have more ties of intimacy, to afford me pleasure.

MYRRHINA
I thank you kindly, and I long to know what this is.

CLEOSTRATA
My husband has put slights upon me in a most unworthy manner.

MYRRHINA
Hah! What is it? Prithee, repeat that same again; for, on my word, I don't in my mind sufficiently comprehend your complaints.

CLEOSTRATA
My husband has put slights upon me in a most unworthy manner, and I have not the advantage of enjoying my own rights.

MYRRHINA
'Tis surprising, if you say the truth; for husbands can scarce obtain from their wives what's their own right.

CLEOSTRATA
Why, against my will, he demands a female servant of me, who belongs to myself, and was brought up at my own expense, for him to give to his bailiff. But he is in love with her himself.

MYRRHINA
Pray, do hold your tongue.

CLEOSTRATA
looking round . But here we may speak at present; we are alone ——

MYRRHINA
It is so. But whence did you get her? For a good wife ought to have no property unknown to her husband; and she who has got any, it is not to her credit, for she must either have purloined it from her husband, or obtained it by unfaithfulness. Whatever is your own, all that I take to be your husband's.

CLEOSTRATA
Surely, you're saying all this out of opposition to your friend.

MYRRHINA
Do hold your tongue, will you, simpleton, and attend to me. Do you forbear to oppose him, will you. Let him love on; that which he chooses let him do, so long as nothing's denied you at home.

CLEOSTRATA
Are you quite in your senses? For really, you are saying these things against your own interest.

MYRRHINA
Silly creature, do you always take care and be on guard against this expression from your husband ——

CLEOSTRATA
What expression?

MYRRHINA

“Woman! out of doors with you!”

CLEOSTRATA
in a low voice . ‘St! be quiet.

MYRRHINA
What’s the matter?

CLEOSTRATA
Hush! *Looks in a particular direction.*

MYRRHINA
Who is it that you see?

CLEOSTRATA
Why look, my husband’s coming; go you in-doors. Make all haste; be off, there’s a dear.

MYRRHINA
You easily prevail; I’m off.

CLEOSTRATA
At a future time, when you and I shall have more leisure, then I’ll talk to you. For the present, adieu!

MYRRHINA
Adieu! *Goes into her house. CLEOSTRATA stands aside.*

Enter STALINO.

STALINO
to himself . I do believe that love excels all things and delights that are exquisite. It is not possible for anything to be mentioned, that has more relish and more that’s delicious in it. Really, I do much wonder at the cooks, who employ sauces so many, that they don’t employ this one seasoning, which excels them all. For where love shall be the seasoning, that I do believe will please every one; nor can there be anything relishing or sweet, where love is not mixed with it. The

gall which is bitter, that same it will make into honey; a man from morose into one cheerful and pleasant. This conjecture do I form rather from myself at home than from anything I've heard; who, since I've been in love with Casina, more than in my young days have excelled Neatness herself in neatness; I give employment to all the perfumers; wherever an unguent is excellent, I perfume myself, that I may please her. And I do please her, as I think. But inasmuch as she keeps living on, my wife's a torment. *Catches sight of his WIFE, and speaks in a low voice.* I espy her standing there in gloominess. This plaguy baggage must be addressed by me with civility. *Going towards her.* My own wife and my delight, what are you about? *Takes hold of her.*

CLEOSTRATA
shaking him off . Get you gone, and keep your hand off!

STALINO
O fie! my Juno. You shouldn't be so cross to your own Jupiter. Where art come now?

CLEOSTRATA
Let me alone. *Moves as if going.*

STALINO
Do stay.

CLEOSTRATA
still going . I shan't stay.

STALINO
I' troth, then I'll follow you. *Follows her.*

CLEOSTRATA
turning round . Prithee, are you in your senses?

STALINO
In my senses, inasmuch as I love you.

CLEOSTRATA
I don't want you to love me.

STALINO
You can't have your way there.

CLEOSTRATA
You plague me to death.

STALINO
I only wish you spoke the truth.

CLEOSTRATA
There I believe you. *Moves on.*

STALINO
Do look back, O my sweet one.

CLEOSTRATA
About as much, I suppose, as you are to me. Whence is this strong smell of perfumes, prithee?

STALINO
aside . O dear, I'm undone; to my misfortune, I'm caught in the fact. Why delay to rub it off my head with my cloak? *Rubs his head with his cloak.* May good Mercury confound you, you perfumer, who provided me with this.

CLEOSTRATA
How now, you worthless grey gnat! I can hardly restrain myself from saying what you deserve. In your old age, good-for-nothing, are you walking along the streets reeking with perfumes?

STALINO
I' faith, I lent my company to a certain friend of mine, while he was purchasing some perfumes.

CLEOSTRATA

How readily he did trump that up. Are you ashamed of anything?

STALINO
Of everything that you like.

CLEOSTRATA
In what dens of iniquity have you been lying?

STALINO
with an air of surprise . I, in dens of iniquity?

CLEOSTRATA
I know more than you think I do.

STALINO
What is it that you know?

CLEOSTRATA
That not one among all the old men is more worthless than yourself, an old man. Whence come you, good-for-nothing? Where have you been? In what den amusing yourself? Where have you been drinking? You are come, on my word; look at his cloak, how it's creased. *Points at it.*

STALINO
May the Gods confound both me and yourself, if I this day have put a drop of wine into my mouth.

CLEOSTRATA
Very well then; just as you like: drink, eat, and squander away your property!

STALINO
Hold, wife; there's now enough of it; you din me too much. Do leave a little of your talk, that you may wrangle with me to-morrow. But what say you? Have you by this time subdued your temper, so as to do that in preference which your husband wishes to be done, rather than strive against him?

CLEOSTRATA
About what matter are you speaking?

STALINO
Do you ask me? About the handmaid Casina — that she may be given in marriage to our bailiff, an honest servant, where she'll be well off, in wood, warm water, food, and clothing, and where she may properly bring up the children which she may have, in preference to that rascally servant of an armour-bearer, a good-for-nothing and dishonest, a fellow that hasn't this day a leaden dump of money his own.

CLEOSTRATA
Upon my faith, I am surprised that in your old age you do not remember your duty.

STALINO
How so?

CLEOSTRATA
Because if you were to act rightly or becomingly, you'd let me manage the maid-servants, which is my own province.

STALINO
Why the plague do you wish to give her to a fellow that carries a shield?

CLEOSTRATA
Because it's our duty to gratify our only son.

STALINO
But although he is an only one, not a bit the more is he my only son than I am his only father. It's more becoming for him to conform to me, than for me to him.

CLEOSTRATA
By my troth, sir, you're providing for yourself a serious piece of trouble.

STALINO
aside . She suspects it, I find that. *To his wife.* What, I, do you mean?

CLEOSTRATA
You; but why do. you stammer so?> Why do you wish for this with such anxiety?

STALINO
Why, that she may rather be given to a servant that's honest, than to a servant that's dishonest.

CLEOSTRATA
What if I prevail upon, and obtain of the bailiff, that for my sake he'll give her up to the other one?

STALINO
But what if I prevail upon the armour-bearer to give her up to the other one? And I think that I can prevail upon him in this.

CLEOSTRATA
That's agreed upon. Should you like that, in your name, I should call Chalinus hither out of doors? Do you beg of him, and I'll beg of the bailiff.

STALINO
I'm quite willing.

CLEOSTRATA
He'll be here just now. Now we'll make trial which of us two is the most persuasive. *She goes into the house.*

STALINO
to himself . May Hercules and the Gods confound her! — a thing that now I'm at liberty to say. I'm wretchedly distracted with love; but she, as though on purpose, thwarts me. My wife has some suspicion now of this that I'm planning; for that reason is she purposely lending her assistance to the armour-bearer.

Enter CHALINUS, from the house.

STALINO
aside, on seeing him . May all the Gods and Goddesses confound him!

CHALINUS
addressing him . Your wife said that you were calling me.

STALINO
Why yes, I did order you to be sent for.

CHALINUS
Tell me what you want.

STALINO
In the first place, I want you to speak to me with a more cheerful countenance.

CHALINUS
It would be folly for me to be morose toward you whose rule is the strongest.

STALINO
Indeed! I consider you to be an honest fellow.

CHALINUS
So I find. But if you think so, why don't you give me my freedom?

STALINO
Why so I wish to do; but it's of no use for me to wish a thing to be done, unless you aid me with your actions.

CHALINUS
What you wish, I only wish myself to be acquainted with it.

STALINO
Listen then; I'll tell you. I've promised to give Casina as a wife to

our bailiff.

CHALINUS
But your wife and your son have promised her to me.

STALINO
I know it; but whether now would you prefer yourself to be single and a free man, or, as a married man, to pass your lives, yourself and your children, in slavery? This choice is your own: whichever condition of these two you prefer, take it.

CHALINUS
If I am free, I live at my own cost; at present I live at yours. As to Casina, I'm resolved to give way to no born man.

STALINO
Go in-doors, and at once be quick and call my wife here, out of doors; and bring hither together with you an urn, with some water, and the lots.

CHALINUS
I'm quite agreable.

STALINO
I' faith, in some way or other I'll now ward off this weapon of yours; for if, as it is, I shall not be able to prevail by persuasion, at least I'll try it by lot. There I shall take vengeance upon you and your abettors.

CHALINUS
Still, for all that the lot will fall to me ——

STALINO
Aye, faith, for you to go to perdition with direful torments.

CHALINUS
She shall marry me, contrive what you will, in any way you please.

STALINO

Won't you away hence from my sight?

CHALINUS
Unwillingly you look upon me, still I shall live on. *Goes into the house.*

STALINO
to himself . Am I not a wretched man? Don't all things go quite contrary with me? I'm now afraid that my wife will prevail upon Olympio not to marry Casina. If that's done, why look, it's all over with me in my old age! If she does not prevail, there is still some tiny hope in the lots. But if the lots fail me, I'll make a pillow of a sword, and lay me down upon it. But see, most opportunely Olympio's coming out of doors.

Enter OLYMPIO, from the house, speaking to CLEOSTRATA, within.

OLYMPIO
By my faith, all in an instant shut me up in a hot furnace, and parch me there for a hard-baked biscuit, good mistress, before you shall gain that point of me which you desire.

STALINO
apart . I'm all right. My hope's realized, according as I hear his words.

OLYMPIO
at the door, to his MISTRESS, within . But why do you frighten me about liberty? Why, even though you should oppose it, and your son as well, against your wills and in spite of you both, for a single penny I can become free.

STALINO
stepping forward . What's this? Who are you wrangling with, Olympio?

OLYMPIO

With the same person that you always are.

STALINO
What, with my wife?

OLYMPIO
What wife are you speaking of to me? Really you are a hunter, as it were: your nights and days you pass with a female cur.

STALINO
What does she say? What's she talking to you about?

OLYMPIO
She's begging and entreating of me that I won't be taking Casina as my wife.

STALINO
What did you say after that?

OLYMPIO
Why, I declared that I wouldn't give way to Jupiter himself, if he were to entreat me.

STALINO
May the Gods preserve you for me!

OLYMPIO
She's now all in a ferment; she's swelling so against me.

STALINO
By my troth, I could like her to burst in the middle.

OLYMPIO
I' faith, I fancy she will, if indeed you manage cleverly. But your amorousness, i' faith, is a cause of trouble to me; your wife is at enmity with me, your son at enmity, my fellow-servants at enmity.

STALINO

What matters that to you? So long as *pointing to himself* this Jupiter only is propitious to you, do you take care and esteem the lesser Gods at a straw's value.

OLYMPIO
That's great nonsense; as if you didn't know how suddenly your human Jupiters take to dying. So after all, if you, my Jupiter, are dead and gone, when your realm devolves upon the lesser Gods, who shall then come to the rescue of my back, or head, or legs?

STALINO
Affairs will go with you better than you expect, if I obtain this — the enjoyment of my Casina.

OLYMPIO
I' faith, I do not think it possibly can be; so earnestly is your wife striving that she shall not be given to me.

STALINO
But this way I'll proceed: I'll put the lots in an urn, and draw the lots for yourself and Chalinus. I find that the business has come to this pass; it's necessary to fight with swords hand to hand.

OLYMPIO
What, if the lot should turn out different from what you wish?

STALINO
Speak with good omen. I rely upon the Gods; we'll trust in the Gods.

OLYMPIO
That expression I wouldn't purchase at a rotten thread, for all people are relying upon the Gods; but still I've frequently seen many of those deceived who relied upon the Gods.

STALINO
But hold your tongue a little while. *Pointing.*

OLYMPIO

What is it you mean?

STALINO
Why look; here's Chalinus coming from the house, out here, with the urn and the lots. Now, with standards closing, we shall fight.

Enter CLEOSTRATA and CHALINUS, with the urn and lots.

CLEOSTRATA
Let me know, Chalinus, what my husband wants with me.

CHALINUS
By my troth, he wants to see you burning outside of the Metian gate.

CLEOSTRATA
I' faith, I believe he does want that.

CHALINUS
But, by my troth, I don't believe it, but I know it for certain.

STALINO
aside to OLYMPIO . I've got more men of business than I imagined: I've got this fellow, a Diviner, in my house. What, if we move our standards nearer, and go to meet them? Follow me. *Goes up to CLEOSTRATA and CHALINUS.* What are you about?

CHALINUS
All the things are here which you ordered; your wife, the lots, the urn, and myself.

STALINO
By yourself only, there is more here than I want.

CHALINUS
I' faith, so it seems to you indeed. I'm a stinger to you now; I'm pricking that dear little heart of yours; even now it's palpitating from alarm.

STALINO
Whip-knave ——

CLEOSTRATA
Hold your tongue, Chalinus,

OLYMPIO
Do make that fellow be quiet.

CHALINUS
No, that fellow rather *pointing to OLYMPIO* , who has learned to misbehave.

STALINO
to CHALINUS . Set the urn down here. *CHALINUS puts it down.* Give me the lots: lend your attention now. But I did think, my wife, that I could have prevailed upon you thus far, for Casina to be given me as my wife, and even now I think so.

OLE.
She, given to you?

STALINO
Why yes, to me —— dear me, I didn't mean to say that. While I meant for myself, I said him; *aside* why really, while I'm wanting her for myself, I've already, i' faith, been chattering at random.

CLEOSTRATA
overhearing him . Upon my word, you really have; and you are still doing so.

STALINO
For him — no, no; for myself, i' faith. Plague take it, at last, with great difficulty, I've got into the right road!

CLEOSTRATA
Very often, i' faith, you are making your mistakes.

STALINO
Such is the case when you desire anything very much. But each of us, both he *pointing to OLYMPIO* and I, apply to you for our rights ——

CLEOSTRATA
How's that?

STALINO
Why, I'll tell you, my sweet. As to this Casina, you must make a present of her to this bailiff of ours.

CLEOSTRATA
But, i' faith, I neither do make it, nor do I in tend it.

STALINO
In that case, then, I'll divide the lots between them.

CLEOSTRATA
Who forbids you?

STALINO
I judge with reason that that is the best and fairest way. In fine, if that happens which we desire, we shall be glad; but if otherwise, we'll bear it with equanimity. *Giving a lot to OLYMPIO.* Take, this lot — take it; see what's written on it.

OLYMPIO
looking at it . Number one. CHA. It isn't fair, be cause that fellow has got one before me.

STALINO
giving one to CHALINUS .Take this, will you.

CHALINUS
taking it . Give it me. Stop though; one thing has just now come into my mind. *To CLEOSTRATA.* Do you see that there's no other lot in there by chance at the bottom of the water.

STALINO
Whip-rascal! do you take me to be your own self? *To CLEOSTRATA.* There is none; only set your feelings at rest.

OLYMPIO
to CHALINUS . May it prove lucky and fortunate to me, a great mischance to you!

CHALINUS
I' faith, it will certainly fall to you, I fancy; I know your pious ways. But stop a bit; is that lot of yours of poplar or of fir?

OLYMPIO
Why do you trouble yourself about that?

CHALINUS
Why, because I'm afraid that it may float on the surface of the water. *They go up to the urn.*

STALINO
Capital! — take care! Now then, both of you, throw your lots in here. *Pointing to the urn.* Look now, wife, all's fair. *They throw them in.*

OLYMPIO
Don't you trust your wife.

STALINO
Be of good courage.

OLYMPIO
Upon my faith, I do believe that she'll lay a spell upon the lots this very day, if she touches them.

STALINO
Hold your tongue.

OLYMPIO
I'll hold my tongue. I pray the Gods ——

CHALINUS
Aye,that this day you may have to endure the chain and the bilboes.

OLYMPIO
That the lot may fall to me.

CHALINUS
Aye, faith, that you may hang up by the feet.

OLYMPIO
Aye, that you may blow your eyes out of your head through your nose.

CHALINUS
to STALINO . What are you afraid of? It must be ready by this —— *Turning to OLYMPIO.* A halter for you, I mean.

OLYMPIO
to CHALINUS . You're undone!

STALINO
Give attention, both of you.

OLYMPIO
I'll be mum.

STALINO
Now you, Cleostrata, that you may not say that anything has been done cheatingly by me in this matter, or suspect it, I give you leave, do you yourself draw the lots.

OLYMPIO
to STALINO . You are ruining me.

CHALINUS
He's gaining an advantage rather.

CLEOSTRATA

to STALINO . You do what's fair.

CHALINUS
to OLYMPIO . I pray the Gods that your lot say run away out of the urn.

OLYMPIO
Say you so? Because you are a runaway yourself, do you wish all to follow your example? I wish, indeed, that that lot of yours, as they say that of the descendants of Hercules once did, may melt away while the lots are drawing.

CHALINUS
And you, that you may melt away yourself, and just now be made hot with twigs.

STALINO
Attend, will you, to the business in hand, Olympio!

OLYMPIO
Yes, if this thrice-dotted fellow 'll let me.

STALINO
May this prove lucky and fortunate to me.

OLYMPIO
Yes indeed; to me as well.

CHALINUS
Not so.

OLYMPIO
By my troth, yes, I say.

CHALINUS
By my troth, yes, for myself, I say.

STALINO

to OLYMPIO .He'll be the winner; you'll live in wretchedness. Do you give him a punch in the face this instant! Well, what are you about?

CLEOSTRATA
to OLYMPIO . Don't you raise your hand.

OLYMPIO
to STALINO . With clenched or open hand am I to strike him?

STALINO
Do just as you please.

OLYMPIO
striking CHALINUS . There's for you, take that!

CLEOSTRATA
to OLYMPIO . What business have you to touch him?

OLYMPIO
Because my Jupiter *pointing to STALINO* commanded me.

CLEOSTRATA
to CHALINUS . Do you slap him in the face in return. *CHALINUS strikes OLYMPIO in the face.*

OLYMPIO
calling out to STALINO . I'm being murdered, I'm being punched with his fists, Jupiter!

STALINO
to CHALINUS . What business had you to touch him?

CHALINUS
Because this Juno of mine *pointing to CLEOSTRATA* ordered me.

STALINO
I must put up with it, since, as long as I live, my wife will have the

mastery.

CLEOSTRATA
to STALINO . He *pointing to CHALINUS* ought to be allowed to speak as much as that fellow.

OLYMPIO
Why by his talk does he occasion me an unlucky omens

STALINO
I think, Chalinus, you should be on your guard against a mishap.

CHALINUS
Full time, after my face has been battered!

STALINO
Come, wife, now then draw the lots. *To the SERVANTS.* Do you give your attention. *To CLEOSTRATA.* And give it, you, as well.

OLYMPIO
Where I am I know not. I'm undone, I've got my heart full of maggots, I think; it's jumping about already; with its throbbing it beats against my breast.

CLEOSTRATA
putting her hand into the urn . I've got hold of a lot.

STALINO
Draw it out, then.

CHALINUS
to OLYMPIO . Are you not dead now?

OLYMPIO
Show it. *She shows it.* It's mine.

CHALINUS
Really this is an unlucky mishap.

CLEOSTRATA
You are beaten, Chalinus.

STALINO
Then I'm glad that we are to survive after all, Olympio.

OLYMPIO
Through my own piety and that of my forefathers has it happened.

STALINO
Wife, go in-doors and make ready for the wedding.

CLEOSTRATA
I'll do as you bid me.

STALINO
Do you know that it's to a distance in the country, at the farm-house,that he is to take her?

CLEOSTRATA
I know.

STALINO
Go in-doors,and although this is disagreable to you, still take care and attend to it.

CLEOSTRATA
Very well. *Goes into the house.*

STALINO
to OLYMPIO . Let us, as well, go in-doors; let's entreat them to make all haste.

OLYMPIO
Am I delaying at all? For in his presence *pointing to CHALINUS* I don't want there to be any further conversation. *They go into the house.*

CHALINUS, alone.

CHALINUS
to himself. If now I were to hang myself, I should be losing my pains, and besides my pains, putting myself to the expense of purchasing a rope, and doing a pleasure to my evil-wishers. What need is there for me, who, indeed, am dead even as it is? At the lots I'm beaten; Casina's to be married to the bailiff. And this now is not so much to be regretted, that the bailiff has got the better, as the fact that the old man so vehemently desired that she shouldn't be given me, and should marry him. How frightened he was, how in his misery he did bustle about, how he did caper about after the bailiff had won. By-the-bye, I'll step aside here; I hear the door opening. *Sees STALINO and OLYMPIO, coming out.* My well-wishers and friendsare coming out. Here in ambush I'll lay in wait against them. *Goes on one side.*

Enter STALINO and OLYMPIO, from the house.

OLYMPIO
Only let him come into the country; I'll send the fellow back into the city to you with his porter's knot, as black as a collier.

STALINO
So it ought to be.

OLYMPIO
I'll have that done and well taken care of.

STALINO
I intended, if he had been at home, to send Chalinus to cater with you; that, even in his sadness, I might, in addition,inflict this misfortune upon our foe.

CHALINUS
apart, retreating to the wall of the house . I'll betake me back again to the wall; I'll imitate the crab. Their conversation must be secretly picked up by me; for the one of them is tormenting me, the other wasting me with anguish. Why, this whip-rascal is marching along in

his white garb, a very receptacle for stripes. My own death I defer; I'm determined to send this fellow to Acheron before me.

OLYMPIO
How obsequious have I been found to you! A thing that you especially desired, that same have I put in your power; this day the object that you love shall be with you, unknown to your wife.

STALINO
Hush! So may the Deities kindly bless me, I can hardly withhold my lips from kissing you on account of this, my own delight!

CHALINUS
apart . What? Kiss him? What's the meaning of this? What's this delight of yours?

OLYMPIO
Do you love me at all now?

STALINO
Aye, by my faith, myself even less than you. May I embrace you?

OLYMPIO
You may. *STALINO embraces him.*

STALINO
How, when I touch you, I do seem to myself to be tasting honey!

CHALINUS
apart . I really do think he intends to choke the bailiff.

OLYMPIO
pushing STALINO away . Away with you, you lover; get off, with your too close acquaintanceship!

CHALINUS
apart . I' faith, I think that this very day they'll be making terms. Surely,this old fellow is an universal admirer. This is the reason, this

is it why he made him his bailiff; some time ago, too, when I came in his way, he wanted to make me his chamberlain upon the like terms.

OLYMPIO
How subservient have I proved to you to-day, how attentive to your pleasure!

STALINO
How surely, so long as I live, will I prove more of a well-wisher to you than to my own self! How will I this day give full many a kiss to Casina! How will I, unknown to my wife, right pleasantly enjoy myself!

CHALINUS
apart . Oho! Now, faith,at last I've got into the right track. It's himself that's dying for Casina. I've caught the fellows.

STALINO
Even now, by my troth, am I longing to embrace her; even now to be kissing her.

OLYMPIO
Do let her be brought out first from the house. Why the plague are you in such a hurry?

STALINO
I'm in love.

OLYMPIO
But I don't think that this can possibly be managed to-day.

STALINO
It can, if, indeed, you think that you can possibly receive your freedom to-morrow.

CHALINUS
apart . Why, really, I must make still better use here of my ears; now, in one thicket, I shall be cleverly catching two boars.

STALINO
pointing to the house of ALCESIMUS . At the house of this friend and neighbour of mine there's a place provided; I have confided to him all my amorousness: he said that he would find me a room.

OLYMPIO
What will his wife do? Where will she be?

STALINO
I've cleverly contrived that: my wife will invite her here, to her own house, to the wedding; to be here with her, to help her, to sleep with her. I have requested it, and my wife has said that she will do so. She'll be sleeping here: I'll take care her husband is away from home. You shall take your wife home into the country; that country shall be this house, for a period, until I've had my marriage with Casina. Hence,before daylight, you shall afterwards take her home to-morrow.Isn't it very skilfully managed?

OLYMPIO
Cleverly!

CHALINUS
apart . Only do proceed; contrive away. By my troth, to your own mischance are you so clever.

STALINO
Do you know what you must do now?

OLYMPIO
Tell me.

STALINO
giving him a purse . Take this purse. Be off and buy some provisions: make haste. But I want it nicely done: delicate eatables, just as she herself is a delicate bit.

OLYMPIO
Very well.

STALINO
Buy some cuttle-fish, mussels, calamaries, barley-fish.

CHALINUS
apart . Aye, wheaten fish, if you know what you're about.

STALINO
Some sole-fish.

CHALINUS
apart . Prithee, why those rather than soles of wood, with which your head may be banged, you most vile old fellow?

OLYMPIO
Should you like some tongue-fish?

STALINO
What need is there, since my wife's at home? She is our tongue-fish, for she's never silent.

OLYMPIO
While I'm about it, I must make choice out of the supply of fish what to purchase.

STALINO
You say what's good: be off. I don't care to spare for cost; provide abundantly. But it's requisite also that I should see this neighbour of mine, that he may attend to what I've requested.

OLYMPIO
Am I to go now?

STALINO
I wish you. *Exit OLYMPIO. STALINO goes into the house of ALCESIMUS.*

CHALINUS
coming forward . By three freedoms I could not be induced this day

to do other than provide a heavy retribution for them, and at once disclose all this matter to my mistress. I've caught and fully detected my enemies in their guilt. But if my mistress is ready now to do her duty, the cause is all our own: I'll cleverly be beforehand with the fellows. With omens in our favour the day proceeds: just conquered, we are the conquerors. I'll go indoors, that that which another cook has seasoned, I now, in my turn, may season after another fashion; and that for him for whom it was prepared, it may really not be prepared; and that that may be prepared for him, which before was not prepared. *Goes into the house.*

ACT III.

Enter ALCESIMUS and STALINO, from the house of the former.

STALINO
Now, Alcesimus, I shall know whether you are the very picture of friend or foe to me; now is the proof upon view; now is the contest going on. “But why do I do so;” forbear to correct me; save yourself all that. “With your hoary head, at an age unfit;” save yourself that as well. “One who has a wife;” save yourself that like wise.

ALCESIMUS
I never saw a person more distracted with love than yourself.

STALINO
Do take care that the house is clear.

ALCESIMUS
Why, faith, men-servants, maid-servants, all of them I’m determined to send out of the house to yours.

STALINO
Heyday! with your adroitness you are very adroit! But only take care and remember the lines which Colax repeats; take care that every one comes with his own provisions, as if they were going to Sutrium.

ALCESIMUS
I’ll remember it.

STALINO
Why now there’s no public ordinance better ordered than yourself, in fact. Attend to this. I’m now going to the Forum; I shall be here just now.

ALCESIMUS
Luck go with you.

STALINO
Take care that your house gets a tongue.

ALCESIMUS
Why so?

STALINO
That when I come, it may invite me.

ALCESIMUS
Pooh, pooh! you area person that stands in good need of a basting; you're making too free with your fun.

STALINO
Of what use is it for me to be in love, unless I'm quite ready and talkative? But take you care that you haven't to be sought for by me.

ALCESIMUS
I'll be at home all the while. *Exit STALINO; ALCESIMUS goes into his house.*

Enter CLEOSTRATA, from her house.

CLEOSTRATA
to herself . This was the reason, then, i' faith, why my husband entreated me, with such great earnestness, to make haste and invite my female neighbour to our house —— that the house might be clear for him to be taking Casina there. Now, therefore, I shall by no means invite her, so that liberty of free range shan't be any way given to worn-out bell-wethers. *ALCESIMUS is coming out of his house.* But look, the pillar of the Senate's coming forward, the safeguard of the public, my neighbour, the person who is finding free range for my husband. I' faith, the measure of wit that has been sold to him, was purchased at no cheap rate.

ALCESIMUS
to himself . I'm wondering that my wife, who's already waiting at home, dressed out, to be sent for, hasn't been invited by this to my

neighbour's here. But see, here she is; she's come to fetch her, I guess. *Going up to CLEOSTRATA.* Good day, Cleostrata!

CLEOSTRATA
And you the same, Alcesimus. Where's your wife?

ALCESIMUS
She's waiting in-doors for you to send for her; for your husband requested me to send her to help you. Do you wish me to call her? *Going towards the door.*

CLEOSTRATA
Let it alone; I don't care; * * if she's busy.

ALCESIMUS
She's at leisure.

CLEOSTRATA
I don't care about it; I don't want to be troublesome to her; I'll see her at a future time.

ALCESIMUS
Are you not getting ready for a wedding there at your house?

CLEOSTRATA
I am getting ready and making preparations.

ARC.
Don't you require an assistant then?

CLEOSTRATA
We have enough at home. When the marriage has taken place, then I'll call upon her; for the present, farewell, and bid her the same from me. *Goes into her house.*

ALCESIMUS
to himself . What am I to do now? To my sorrow. I've done a most disgraceful action for the sake of that vile and toothless goat, who

has engaged me in this. I've promised the aid of my wife out of doors, as though to go lick dishes like a dog. A worthless fellow, to tell me that his wife was going to send for her, whereas she herself declares that she does not want her. And upon my faith, it's a wonder if this female neighbour of mine hasn't already her suspicions of this. But yet, on the other hand, when I reflect with myself on this notion, if there were anything of that, there would have been enquiries of me. I'll go in-doors, that I may lay up the ship again in the dockyard. *Goes into his house. Enter CLEOSTRATA, from her house.*

CLEOSTRATA
to herself . Now he has been finely made a fool of. In what a bustle are these unfortunate old fellows. Now I do wish that that good-for-nothing decrepit husband of mine would come, that I might make a fool of him in his turn, after I have thus fooled the other one. For I long to make a bit of a quarrel between these two. But look, he's coming. Why, when you see him so serious, you'd think him a decent person. *She stands on one side, unseen.*

Enter STALINO.

STALINO
aloud, to himself . It's a great folly, to my notion at least, for any man that's in love to go to the Forum on that day on which the object which he loves is close at hand; as I in my folly have been doing; I've spent the day, standing pleading for a certain relative of mine, who, faith, I'm very delighted has lost his cause; so that he hasn't for nothing chosen me as his advocate to-day. He ought first to ask and make enquiry, whether his mind is at home or not at home, whom he's choosing for his advocate; if he says it isn't, without his mind he should send him off home. *Catches sight of his wife.* But look, there's my wife before the house! Alas! wretch that I am! I'm afraid that she isn't deaf, and has heard this.

CLEOSTRATA
apart . By my troth, I have heard it to your great cost.

STALINO
I'll go nearer to her. *Goes up to CLEOSTRATA.* What are you about, my delight?

CLEOSTRATA
I' faith, I was waiting for you.

STALINO
Are the things ready now? Have you by this brought over here to our house this female neighbour of yours, who was to assist you?

CLEOSTRATA
I sent for her as you requested me; but this companion of yours, your very good friend, was in a pet with his wife about something, I don't know what; he said, when I went to fetch her, that he wouldn't send her.

STALINO
That's your greatest fault; you are not courteous enough.

CLEOSTRATA
It's not the part of matrons, but of harlots, to be showing courtesies, my husband, to the husbands of others. Go yourself and fetch her; I wish to attend in-doors, my husband, to what is requisite to be done.

STALINO
Make haste then.

CLEOSTRATA
Very well. *Aside.* Now, faith, I shall inspire some apprehensions in his heart. I'll this day render this lovesick man completely miserable. *She goes into the house.*

Enter ALCESIMUS, from his house.

ALCESIMUS
to himself . I'll go see here if the lover has come back home from the Forum, who, an old ghost, has been making fools of myself and my

wife. But see, there he is before his house. *Addressing STALINO.* I' faith, 'twas just in good time I was coming to your house.

STALINO
And, i' faith, I to yours. How say you, you good-for-nothing fellow? What did I enjoin you? What did I beg of you?

ALCESIMUS
What's the matter?

STALINO
How nicely you've had your house empty for me! How well you have sent your wife over to our house here! Isn't it through yourself that I and the opportunity are lost, both of us?

ALCESIMUS
Why don't you go hang yourself? Why, 'twas you yourself said that your wife would come and fetch mine from our house?

STALINO
Then she declares that she has been to fetch her, and that you said you wouldn't let her go.

ALCESIMUS
But she herself, of her own accord, said to me that she didn't care for her assistance.

STALINO
But 'tis she herself who has deputed me to come and fetch her.

ALCESIMUS
But I don't care for that.

STALINO
But you are proving my ruin.

ALCESIMUS
But that's as it should be. But I shall still go on delaying; but I very

much long for nothing but to do you some mischief; but I'll do it with pleasure. Never this day shall you have a "but" the more than I. But, in fine, really, upon my faith, may the Gods confound you.

STALINO
What now? Are you going to send your wife to my house?

ALCESIMUS
You may take her, and be off to utter and extreme perdition, both with her and with that one of yours, and with that mistress of yours as well. A way with you, and attend to something else; I'll at once bid my wife to pass thither through the garden to your wife.

STALINO
Now you are proving yourself a friend to me in genuine style! *ALCESIMUS goes into his house.* Under what auspices am I to say that this passion was inflicted upon me, or what have I ever done amiss towards Venus, that when I'm thus in love crosses so many should befall me in my path? *A noise is heard.* Hey day! what's that noise, prithee, that's going on in our house?

Enter PARDALISCA, running out of the house.

PARDALISCA
bawling out at the door . I'm undone, I'm undone, I'm utterly, utterly ruined! My heart is deadened with fear. My limbs, in my misery, are all a-trembling! I know not whence to obtain or look for any assistance, safety, or refuge for myself, or any means of relief: things so surprising, in a manner so surprisingly done, have I just now witnessed in-doors, a new and unusual piece of audacity. Be on your guard, Cleostrata! prithee do get away from her,lest amid such transports she may be doing you some mischief! Tear away that sword from her, who's not in possession of her senses!

STALINO
Why, what is the matter — that she, frightened and half dead with fear, rushes hither out of doors? Pardalisca!

PARDALISCA
looking wildly about her . Whence do my ears catch the sound?

STALINO
Just look back at me.

PARDALISCA
My master!

STALINO
What's the matter? What?

PARDALISCA
I'm undone.

STALINO
How undone?

PARDALISCA
I'm undone, and you are undone.

STALINO
Disclose it, what's the matter with you?

PARDALISCA
Woe to you!

STALINO
Aye, and the same to yourself.

PARDALISCA
That I mayn't fall down, prithee do hold, hold me. *Staggers, on which STALINO supports her.*

STALINO
Whatever it is, tell me quickly.

PARDALISCA
Do support my throbbing breast, prithee do make a little air with

your cloak.

STALINO
fanning her with the lappet of his cloak . I'm in alarm as to what is the matter; *aside* unless this woman has been somewhere upsetting herself with the pure cream of Bacchus.

PARDALISCA
Hold my ears, pray do. *Her head falls on her shoulder.*

STALINO
Away to utter perdition; breast, ears, head, and yourself, may the Gods confound! For, unless I quickly learn from you this matter, whatever it is, I'll forth with be knocking your brains out, you viper, you hussey, who have thus far been making a laughing-stock of me.

PARDALISCA
My master!

STALINO
What do you want, my servant?

PARDALISCA
You are too angry.

STALINO
You are saying so too soon. But whatever this is, tell it; relate in a few words what has been the disturbance in-doors.

PARDALISCA
You shall know. Hear this most foul crime which just now in-doors at our house your female slave began to attempt after this fashion, a thing that does not befit the regulations lations of Attica.

STALINO
What is it?

PARDALISCA

Fever prevents the use of my tongue.

STALINO
What is it? Can I possibly learn from you what is the matter?

PARDALISCA
I'll tell you. Your female slave, she whom you intend to give as a wife to your bailiff, in-doors she ——

STALINO
In-doors what? What is it?

PARDALISCA
Is imitating the wicked practices of wicked women, in threatening her husband ——

STALINO
What then?

PARDALISCA
Ah!

STALINO
What is it?

PARDALISCA
She says that she intends to take her husband's life. A sword ——

STALINO
starting . Hah! PAR. A sword ——

STALINO
What about that sword?

PARDALISCA
She has got one.

STALINO
Ah! wretch that I am! Why has she got it?

PARDALISCA
She is pursuing them all at home all over the house, and she won't allow any person to approach her; and so, all, hiding in chests and under beds, are mute with fear.

STALINO
I'm murdered and ruined outright! What malady is this that has so suddenly befallen her?

PARDALISCA
She is mad.

STALINO
I do think that I am the most unfortunate of men!

PARDALISCA
Aye, and if you were to know the speeches she uttered to-day.

STALINO
I long to know about what she said.

PARDALISCA
Listen. By all the Gods and Goddesses she swore that she would murder the person with whom she should bed.

STALINO
Will she murder me?

PARDALISCA
Does that bear reference to yourself in any way?

STALINO
Pshaw!

PARDALISCA
What business have you with her?

STALINO

I made a mistake; him, the bailiff, I meant to say.

PARDALISCA
It's on purpose that you are turning aside from the high road into bye-paths.

STALINO
Does she threaten anything against myself?

PARDALISCA
She is hostile to you individually more than any person.

STALINO
For what reason?

PARDALISCA
Because you have given her as a wife to Olympio; she says that she'll neither suffer your life, nor her own, nor that of her husband, to be prolonged until the morrow. I have been sent hither to tell you this, that you might beware of her.

STALINO
aside . By my troth, to my misery I'm quite undone! There neither is nor ever was any old man in love so wretched as I.

PARDALISCA
aside, to the AUDIENCE . Don't I play him off cleverly? For everything that I've been telling him as taking place, I've been telling him falsely. My mistress and she who lives next door have concocted this scheme. I've been sent to fool him.

STALINO
Hark you, Pardalisca!

PARDALISCA
What is it?

STALINO

There is ——

PARDALISCA
What?

STALINO
There is something that I want to enquire of you about.

PARDALISCA
You are causing me delay.

STALINO
Why, you are causing me sorrow. But has Casina got that sword even still?

PARDALISCA
She has; but two of them.

STALINO
Why two?

PARDALISCA
She says that this very day she'll murder you with the one, the bailiff with the other.

STALINO
I am now the most utterly murdered of all people that do exist. I'll put on me a coat of mail; I think that's the best. What did my wife do? Didn't she go and take them away from her?

PARDALISCA
No person dares go near her.

STALINO
She should have prevailed on her.

PARDALISCA
She is entreating her. She declares that assuredly she will lay them

down on no other terms, unless she understands that she shall not be given to the bailiff.

STALINO
But whether she likes it or no, because she refuses, she shall marry him this day. For why shouldn't I carry this out that I've begun, for her to marry me? — that, indeed, I didn't intend to say — but, our bailiff?

PARDALISCA
You're making your mistakes pretty often.

STALINO
It's alarm that impedes my words. But, prithee, do tell my wife, that I entreat her to prevail upon her to put down the sword, and allow me to return in-doors.

PARDALISCA
I'll tell her.

STALINO
And do you entreat her.

PARDALISCA
And I'll entreat her.

STALINO
And in soft language, in your usual way. But do you hear me? If you manage this, I'll give you a pair of shoes and a gold ring for your finger, and plenty of nice things.

PARDALISCA
I'll do my best.

STALINO
Take care and prevail.

PARDALISCA

Now then I'll be off; unless you detain me for anything.

STALINO
Be off, and take care.

PARDALISCA
aside . Look, his assistant is returning, at last, with the provisions; he's bringing a train after him. *She goes into the house.*

Enter OLYMPIO, a COOK, and his ASSISTANTS, with provisions.

OLYMPIO
to the COOK . See, you thief, that you lead on your briars beneath their banners.

A COOK.
But how are they briars?

OLYMPIO
Because that which they have touched, they instantly seize hold of; if you go to snatch it from them, they instantly rend it; so, wherever they come, wherever they are, with a twofold loss do they mulct their masters.

A COOK.
Heyday, indeed!

OLYMPIO
Well, well! This way I'm delaying to go meet my master with a magnificent, patrician, and patronizing air. *He struts along.*

STALINO
My good man, save you.

OLYMPIO
I admit that so I am.

STALINO

How goes it?

OLYMPIO
You are in love, but I'm hungering and thirsting.

STALINO
You have come capitally provided.

OLYMPIO
Pooh! pooh! *Goes towards the door.*

STALINO
But stop you, although you do hold me in contempt ——

OLYMPIO
O dear, O dear! your converse has a bad smell to me. *Moving away.*

STALINO
What's the matter?

OLYMPIO
pointing to the baskets of provisions . That's the matter.

STALINO
Will you not stop there?

OLYMPIO
Why, really, you are causing me ennui.

STALINO
I shall be giving you a grand coup, I fancy, if you don't stand still forthwith. *Catches hold of him.*

OLYMPIO
O mon Dieu! Can't you get away from me, unless you would like me to be sick just now?

STALINO
Do stop a bit.

OLYMPIO
How's this? *Staring at him.* What person's this?

STALINO
I'm your master.

OLYMPIO
What master?

STALINO
He whose slave you are.

OLYMPIO
I, a slave?

STALINO
Aye, and mine.

OLYMPIO
Am I not a free man? Remember! remember!

STALINO
Stop and stay you there! *Catches hold of him.*

OLYMPIO
Let me alone.

STALINO
I am your slave.

OLYMPIO
That's very good.

STALINO
My dear little Olympio, my father, my patron, I do beg of you ——

OLYMPIO
Well, you certainly are in your senses.

STALINO
Of course I am your slave.

OLYMPIO
What need have I of so worthless a slave?

STALINO
Well now, how soon are you going to provide me some amusement?

OLYMPIO
If the dinner were but drest.

STALINO
Then let them be off this instant in-doors. *To the COOK and his ASSISTANTS.* Go you into the house and despatch with all haste. I'll come in just now. Have the dinner charmingly sauced up for me; I want to have a charming meal. I really don't care, now, to be eating in the style of your sumptuous foreigners. Be off, will you; but for the present, however, I take up my abode here. *The COOK and his ASSISTANTS go into the house.*

OLYMPIO
Is there anything that detains you here?

STALINO
The servant-maid says that Casina has got a sword in-doors, to deprive you and me of life with it.

OLYMPIO
I understand it. Just let her alone with it. They are imposing on you: I know these worthless baggages. However, do you now go into the house with me.

STALINO
But, i' faith, I'm fearful of mischief: only do you go. Reconnoitre, first, what's going on within.

OLYMPIO

My life's as dear to me as yours is to you.

STALINO
But only do go now.

OLYMPIO
If you'll go yourself, I'll go in with you. *They go into the house.*

ACT IV.

Enter PARDALISCA, from the house, laughing aloud.

PARDALISCA
to herself . Upon my faith, I do not believe that at Nemea, nor do I think that at Olympia, or anywhere else, there ever where such funny games as these ridiculous games that are going on in-doors here with our old gentleman and our bailiff Olympio. In-doors, all over the house, all are in a bustle; the old man is bawling away in the kitchen, and urging on the cooks. “Why don’t you go to work at once? Why don’t you serve up, if you are going to serve up? Make haste; the dinner ought to have been cooked by this.” And then this bailiff is strutting about with his chaplet, clothed in white and finely rigged out. And then these women are dressing up the armour-bearer in the bedroom, to give him to be married to our bailiff in place of Casina; but the artful baggages very cleverly conceal what the upshot of this is really to be. Then too, in a manner quite worthy of them, the cooks are very cleverly doing their best to the end that the old gentleman mayn’t get his dinner. They are upsetting the pots, and putting out the fire with the water. At the request of these ladies they are so doing;they, too, are determined to bundle the old fellow dinnerless out of doors, that they by themselves may blow out their own stomachs. I know these female gluttons; a merchant-ship full of victuals they can devour. But the door is opening.

Enter STALINO, from the house.

STALINO
speaking to CLEOSTRATA, within . If you are wise, wife, you’ll dine, after all, when the dinner’s cooked. I shall dine in the country, for I’m desirous to attend the new-made husband and the newly-made bride into the country (I know the mischievous habits of persons), that no one may carry her off. Do you people indulge your appetite. But do make haste and send him and her out immediately, that at least we may get there in daylight. I shall be here tomorrow;

to-morrow, wife, I'll be having a banquet still.

PARDALISCA
aside . 'Tis as I said it would be; the women are packing the old fellow dinnerless out of doors.

STALINO
to PARDALISCA .What are you doing here?

PARDALISCA
I'm going whither she sent me.

STALINO
Really?

PARDALISCA
Seriously.

STALINO
What are you looking for here?

PARDALISCA
Really I'm looking for nothing at all.

STALINO
Be off; you are loitering here; the others are bustling about in-doors.

PARDALISCA
I'm off.

STALINO
Be off, then, will you, away from here, you jade of jades. *PARDALISCA goes into the house.* Is she gone then? I may now say here anything I please. He that's in love, i' faith, even if he is hungry, isn't hungry at all. But see, the bailiff, my associate, companion, and husband-in-copartnership, is coming out of doors with wreath and torch.

Enter OLYMPIO, dressed in white, with a wreath on his head, and a torch in his hand, accompanied by MUSICIANS

OLYMPIO
to one of the MUSICIANS . Come, piper, while they are escorting the new-made bride out of doors, make the whole of this street resound with a sweet wedding-tune. *He sings aloud.* Io Hymen hymenæe! Io Hymen!

STALINO
accosting him . How fare you, my preserver?

OLYMPIO
I'm very hungry, faith; and, in fact, I'm not thirsty a little.

STALINO
But I'm in love.

OLYMPIO
Still, upon my faith, love, I shan't be making any trial of you. For some time past my inside has been grumbling with emptiness.

STALINO
But why is she now delaying so long in-doors, just as though on purpose? The greater the haste I'm in, in so much the less is she.

OLYMPIO
What if I were even to trill an hymeneal lay?

STALINO
I agree to that; and I'll help you at these our common nuptials.

OL. (STALING
joining, they sing). Hymen hymenæe! Io Hymen!

STALINO
Upon my faith, I'm dreadfully done up; one may burst one's self with singing this hymeneal lay; if I do burst this way, I can't burst

any other, that I may make sure of.

OLYMPIO
Upon my faith, for sure, if you were a horse, you'd never be broken in.

STALINO
On what grounds?

OLYMPIO
You are too hard-mouthed.

STALINO
Have you ever found me so?

OLYMPIO
The Gods forbid! But the door makes a noise; they are coming out.

STALINO
I' troth, the Gods do will me to be preserved at last. I already smell Casina at a distance. *They move to a distance.*

Enter, from the house, two FEMALE SERVANTS leading CHALINUS, veiled and dressed in women's clothes, as CASINA.

TWO MAID-SERVANTS
Move on, and raise your feet a little over the threshold, newly-married bride; prosperously commence this journey, that you may always be alive for your husband, that you may be his superior in power, and the conqueror, and that your rule may gain the upper hand. Let your husband find you in clothes; you plunder your husband; by night and day to be tricking your husband, prithee, do remember.

OLYMPIO
to STALINO . Upon my faith, at her downright peril, the instant she offends me ever so little!

STALINO
Hold your tongue.

OLYMPIO
I shall not hold my tongue.

STALINO
What's the matter

OLYMPIO
These wicked jades are wickedly teaching her wicked lessons.

STALINO
Instead of being all ready, they'll be bringing this matter all into confusion for me. They are striving at that, wishing for it, that they may have it all undone.

TWO MAID-SERVANTS
Come, Olympio, as soon as you please, receive this wife of yours from us. *They present CHALINUS to him.*

OLYMPIO
Hand her to me then, if you are going to hand her to me at all to-day. *They hand CHALINUS to him.*

STALINO
to the FEMALE SERVANTS . Be off in-doors.

TWO MAID-SERVANTS
Prithee, do deal gently with her who is so young and inexperienced.

STALINO
It shall be so. Farewell; be off now.

TWO MAID-SERVANTS
Farewell. *They go into the house.*

STALINO

Is my wife now gone?

OLYMPIO
She's in the house; don't be afraid.

STALINO
Hurra! Now, faith, I'm free at last. *Addressing himself to CHALINUS as CASINA.* My sweetheart, my spring-flower, my little honey! *Embraces him.*

OLYMPIO
But, hark you! you'll beware, if you are wise, of some mishap: she's mine.

STALINO
I know that; but mine's the first enjoyment.

OLYMPIO
holding him the torch . Hold this torch for me.

STALINO
Why, no, I'll hold her in my arms in preference. All-powerful Venus, a happy existence hast thou given me in giving me the possession of her! A dear little body! a dear little honey! *Hugs CHALINUS, who pretends to struggle.*

OLYMPIO
shouting aloud . O my dear little wife! *Jumps about on one leg.*

STALINO
What's the matter?

OLYMPIO
She has trod upon my toes.

STALINO
aside . I'll compliment her, as it were. A mist is not so soft as is —— *Pulls CHALINUS about.* A pretty little bosom, upon my faith.

CHALINUS gives him a thrust with his elbow, on which he roars out. Woe to unfortunate me!

OLYMPIO
What's the matter?

STALINO
She struck me in the breast with her elbow.

OLYMPIO
Why then, pray, do you maul her about? But she does not do so to me, who touch her gently. *CHALINUS gives him a poke with his elbow.* O me!

STALINO
What's the matter?

OLYMPIO
Prithee, how robust she is! she has almost laid me flat with her elbow.

STALINO
She wishes, then, to go to bed.

OLYMPIO
Nay but, why don't we be off?

STALINO
taking hold of CHALINUS . My pretty, pretty little dear! *They go into the house of ALCESIMUS.*

ACT V.

Enter MYRRHINA and PARADALISCA, from the house of STALINO.

MYRRHINA
Having been well and handsomely entertained indoors, we've come out here in the street to see the wedding-sports. I'd like to know how Chalinus gets on — the newly-married bride with her new-made husband. Never, upon my faith, any day did I laugh so much, nor in the time that's to come do I think I shall laugh more; and no poet ever did con trive a more artful plot than this was skilfully contrived by us. I'd now very much like the old fellow to come out, with his face well battered, than whom there is not a more wicked old man alive. Not even him do I deem to be more wicked who finds the room for him. Now, Pardalisca, do you be guard here *pointing to the door of her house* ; that whoever comes out from here, you may have some sport with him.

PARDALISCA
I'll do it with pleasure, and in my usual way.

MYRRHINA
Observe from here everything that's going on indoors.

PARDALISCA
Prithee, get behind me.

MYRRHINA
You have liberty, too, to say freely and boldly to him anything you like.

PARDALISCA
in a low voice . Be quiet; your door makes a noise. *They hide themselves.*

Enter OLYMPIO, in great alarm, from the house of ALCESIMUS.

OLYMPIO
bawling aloud . Neither where to fly to, nor where to conceal myself, nor how to hide this disgrace, do I know; so much have my master and myself been supereminently disgraced at these nuptials of ours. I'm now so ashamed, and now so afraid, and so ridiculous are we both. But, a simpleton, I'm now doing what's new to me: I'm ashamed at that which has never shamed me before. *To the AUDIENCE.* Lend me your attention, while I repeat my exploits; it's worth your while to catch them with your ears; so ridiculous to be heard, to be repeated, are these mishaps which I have met with in the house. [When straightway I had led my new-made bride into the room, I fastened the bolt; but, however, the gloom there was just like the night. I placed, I propped things against the door; I struggled hard that before the old fellow * * * * with my bride. Then I began to be slow in my proceedings, for I looked behind me every now and then, lest the old fellow should break in * * * * *, a kiss, that provocative to lust, I asked of her first. She pushed back my hand, and allowed me not to give her a kiss in a quiet way. But then the more anxious was I, the more desirous to assert my privilege with Casina, and I longed to do the old fellow out of that task. The door I blocked up, so that the old man might not over-power me. *from the house.*

MYRRHINA
apart to CLEOSTRATA . Come now, you accost him *Pointing to OLYMPIO.*

CLEOSTRATA
accosting OLYMPIO . Where is your newly-made bride?

OLYMPIO
aside . By heavens, I'm utterly undone; the thing's all out.

CLEOSTRATA
overhearing him . It's right, then, that you should relate the whole affair as it happened. What's going on in-doors? How fares Casina? Is she quite obsequious to your will?

OLYMPIO
I’m ashamed to tell it.

CLEOSTRATA
Relate it in its order just as you proceeded.

OLYMPIO
Upon my faith, I am ashamed.

CLEOSTRATA
Proceed boldly. After you went to bed, I want you to tell what took place after that.

OLYMPIO
But it’s a disgraceful matter.

CLEOSTRATA
I’ll take care that those who hear it shall be on their guard as to mentioning it.

OLYMPIO
That’s the principal thing.

CLEOSTRATA
You kill me with weariness. Why don’t you proceed?

OLYMPIO
—— Ubi * * * * us subtus porro * * * quid.

OLYMPIO
Babæ!

CLEOSTRATA
Quid?

OLYMPIO
Papæ! * * quid est?

OLYMPIO

Oh, erat maximum. Gladium ne haberet metui; id quærere occœpi. Dum, gladiumne habeat, quæro, arripio capulum. Sed, quom cogito, non habuit gladium; nam id esset frigidius.

CLEOSTRATA
Eloquere.

OLYMPIO
At pudet.

CLEOSTRATA
Num radix fuit?

OLYMPIO
Non fuit.

CLEOSTRATA
Num cucumis?

OLYMPIO
Profecto hercle non fuit quidquam olerum; Nisi quidquid erat, calamitas profecto attigerat nunquam. Ita, quidquid erat, grande erat.

MYRRHINA
Quid fit denique? Edisserta.

OLYMPIO
—— sepit veste id, quî estis. Ubi illum saltum video obseptum; Rogo, ut altero sinat ire. Ita, quidquid erat, grande erat. Tollo ut obvortam cubitissim * * * Ullum mutire * * * * * Surge, ut ineam in * * * * * Atque illam in * * * * *

MYRRHINA
Perlepide narrat * * * *

OLYMPIO
When I addressed Casina, “Casina,” said I, “my dear wife, why do you slight your husband in this fashion? Really, upon my faith, you

do this quite without my deserving it, inasmuch as I have given you the preference as my wife." She answered not a word. When I attempted a kiss, a beard pricked my lips just like briars. Forthwith, as I was upon my knees, she struck my head with her feet. I tumbled headlong from the bed; she leapt down upon me and punched my face. From there in silence out of doors I came in this guise; by your leaves I say it; may the old fellow drink of the same cup that I have been drinking of.

CLEOSTRATA
Most excellent. But where's your cloak?

OLYMPIO
pointing to the house of ALCESIMUS . I left it here in-doors.

CLEOSTRATA
Well now; hasn't a very nice trick been played you?

OLYMPIO
Yes, and deservedly. Hush! the door makes a noise. What, is she following me, I wonder? *They go to a distance.*

Enter STALINO, in haste, from the house of ALCESIMUS.

STALINO
aloud to himself . I'm branded with the greatest disgrace, nor what, under my circumstances to do, do I know. Nor yet how to look my wife in the face; so utterly undone am I! All my misdeeds are discovered. In every way, to my confusion, I am ruined! So clearly am I hooked fast by the jaws! nor know I in what way to clear myself before my wife; wretch that I am, to have been stripped of my cloak! * * * * These clandestine nuptials are all discovered. * * * * I judge it best for me * * * * She taught my wife * the way * * But who is there, what person would be ready to undertake this office for me? What now to do I know not, except to imitate worthless slaves, and fly from the house; for there's no safety for my shoulder-blades if I return home. I may tell lies there; i' faith, I shall get a basting, though much against my will, although I have earned my

punishment. I'll at once betake myself in this direction in flight. *He begins to run.*

OLYMPIO
coming forward with the others . Hallo there! Stop, this instant, you amorous one!

STALINO
to himself . I'm utterly undone! I'm being called back. I'll be off, as though I didn't hear. *Runs on.*]

Enter CHALINUS, from the house of ALCESIMUS, dressed in woman's clothes.

CHALINUS
Where are you, you who imitate the morals of the Massilians? Now, if you wish to be taking liberties with me, is a good opportunity [* * * at your risk. By my troth, you are undone. Come, only step this way. * * * Now I fancy that when a witness out of * * * * * * * * I'll find * * * * thus out of the street I order * * * * a murmur I * * *

STALINO
Now am I in extreme danger, between the stone and the sacrifice, nor know I which way to fly * * * * * The wolf-dogs * * * it was * * *

CHALINUS
I' faith, I do think * * * * old there now like new.]

STALINO
turning about . I'll go this way. I trust that the omen of a bitch's barking will prove the better.

CLEOSTRATA
What are you doing, my husband, my good man? Whence come you in this guise? What have you done with your walking-stick, or how disposed of the cloak you had?

TWO MAID-SERVANTS

While he was playing his loving pranks with Casina, he lost it, I fancy.

STALINO
aside . Utterly undone!

CHALINUS
coming up to STALINO . Shall we go to bed again? I am Casina.

STALINO
Away with you to utter perdition!

CHALINUS
Don’t you love me?

CLEOSTRATA
Nay, but answer me; what has become of your cloak?

[

STALINO
running about, exclaiming . Upon my faith, wife, the Bacchantes! Bacchantes! Bacchantes!

TWO MAID-SERVANTS
He’s making pretence on purpose for, upon my word, no Bacchantes are exhibiting at the present time.

STALINO
I forgot that. But still, the Bacchantes! ——

CLEOSTRATA
How, the Bacchantes? Why, that cannot be.

TWO MAID-SERVANTS
By my troth, you are in a fright.

STALINO
What I?

CLEOSTRATA
to the SERVANT . I' faith, do tell no lies, for it's quite clear. *]

STALINO
Won't you hold your tongue?

OLYMPIO
I' troth, I certainly shall not hold my tongue; for with the greatest earnestness you begged me to ask for Casina as my wife.

STALINO
That I did on account of my love for you.

CLEOSTRATA
I' faith, of her rather. *Turning to CHALINUS.* He'd have been making an attack upon you, in fact.

STALINO
I been doing these things that you mention?

CLEOSTRATA
And do you ask me that?

STALINO
If indeed I have done so, I've been doing wrong.

CLEOSTRATA
Just come back in-doors here; I'll remind you, if you have forgotten anything.

STALINO
Troth, I think, I'll believe you in preference as to what you say. But, wife, do grant pardon to your husband for this; Myrrhina, do entreat Cleostrata! If ever, from this time forward, I love Casina, or even think of it, should I love her, I say, should I ever hereafter, in fact, be guilty of such a thing, there's no reason, wife, why you shouldn't lash me with twigs as I hang up by the arms.

MYRRHINA
On my word, I do think that forgiveness may be granted for this.

CLEOSTRATA
to MYRRHINA . I'll do as you request me. *To STALINO.* On this account with the less difficulty do I now grant you this pardon, that, from being a long one, we mayn't be making this Play still longer.

STALINO
You are not angry?

CLEOSTRATA
I am not angry.

STALINO
Am I to trust your word?

CLEOSTRATA
You may my word.

STALINO
No person ever did have a more amiable wife than I've got.

CHALINUS
Keep to her, then.

CLEOSTRATA
to CHALINUS . Come you, give him back his walking-stick and cloak.

CHALINUS
taking them from behind him, where he had held them . Take them, if you wish. Upon my faith, a great injustice has really been most egregiously done me; I've been married to two husbands; neither has behaved to me as to a new-made bride.

The PLAYERS.
Spectators, what's to be done within, we'll tell you here. This Casina

will be discovered to be the daughter of this person next door, and she'll be married to Euthynicus, our master's son. Now it's only fair that with your deserving hands you should give us deserved applause. He who does so, may he always keep his mistress without the knowledge of his wife. But he who doesn't with his hands clap as loud as he can, in place of a mistress, may a he-goat, soused in bilge-water, be palmed off upon him.

CISTELLARIA

Translated by Henry Thomas Riley

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THE SUBJECT.

DEMIPHO, a merchant of Lemnos, having ravished Phanostrata, a young woman of Sicyon, she is brought to bed of a female child. This she gives to her servant Lampadiscus, to be exposed. On this being done, in the sight of Lampadiscus, a Procuress picks up the infant, and afterwards makes a present of it to her friend Melænis, by whom it is brought up, under the name of Silenium. Alcesimarchus, a young man of Sicyon, falls violently in love with her, and takes her under his protection. In the meantime, Demipho, who has married another wife, after her death marries Phanostrata, and comes to live at Sicyon. He and his wife are then anxious, if possible, to regain their lost child. The daughter of Demipho by his first wife is destined by her father to become the wife of Alcesimarchus; on hearing which, Melænis removes her foster-child from his protection. At this conjuncture Lampadiscus finds out the Procuress that had taken up the infant when exposed, and from her discovers that the child of his mistress is with Melænis. He informs his mistress of this, while Melænis is, unknown to them, standing by; upon which she determines to confess the truth, and to restore Silenium to her parents. While she is thinking upon this plan, Alcesimarchus lays hands on Silenium, and carries her off to his father's house. In the confusion attendant on this, Halisca, the servant of Melænis, drops a casket in the street, containing some trinkets which had been worn by Silenium at the time when she was exposed. Phanostrata and Lampadiscus find the casket, and on Halisca coming to search for it, they discover where Silenium is. They go into the house, and Phanostrata discover her long-lost child.

THE ACROSTIC ARGUMENT.

[Supposed to have been written by Priscian the Grammarian.]

A young man of Lemnos ravishes (Comprimit) a woman of Sicyon. He (Is) returns to his country, and becomes father of a daughter by his marriage there. The woman of Sicyon (Sicyonia) also bears a daughter. A servant takes (Tollit) and exposes her, and keeps watch in secret; her (Eam), taken up, a Courtesan presents to another. Coming back afterwards from Lemnos (Lemno), he marries her whom he had ravished; and his daughter born at Lemnos (Lemni) he promises in marriage to a young man captivated by passion (A more) for the one that had been exposed. On making enquiry (Requirens), the servant finds her whom he had exposed; and so (Itaque) legaliy and properly does Alcesimarchus (Alcesimarchus) gain her recognized as a tree woman, whom before he had had as a concubine.

ACT I.

Enter SILENIUM, GYMNASIUM, and PROCURESS, from the house of SILENIUM.

SILENIUM
Inasmuch as hitherto I have loved you, and have deemed you to be my friend, my dear Gymnasium, and your mother as well; so have you shown it to me this day, both you and she. If you had been my own sister, how more you two could possibly have held me in esteem I know not; but, according as is my way of thinking, I conceive it could not possibly be, such ready assistance, all other things laid aside, have you given me. For this reason do I love you, and for it a vast obligation have you both conferred upon me.

GYMNASIUM
I' faith, at such a price as this, indeed, it's easy for us to give you our attendance and to do you good offices; so handsomely and so elegantly have you entertained us at breakfast at your house, as we shall ever remember.

SILENIUM
It has been done with hearty good will by me, and will be done, to get those things which I shall think you are desirous of.

A PROCURESS
As the man said, who was borne by a prospering breeze on a calm sea: "I rejoice that we came to you;" in such a delightful manner have we been here this day received; nor except in the management, was there anything there at your house but what pleased me.

SILENIUM
How so, prithee?

A PROCURESS
Too seldom did the servant give me something to drink, and, as it was, it clouded the colour of the wine.

GYMNASIUM
Pray, is that becoming to be mentioned here?

A PROCURESS
It's both right and proper; there's no other person here.

SILENIUM
With reason do I love you both, who esteem and honor me.

A PROCURESS
I' faith, my dear Silenium, it befits this class to be kindly disposed among themselves, and carefully to keep up friendships, when you see these matrons of elevated rank, born of the noblest families, how they value friendship, and how carefully they keep it united between themselves. If we do that same thing, if we imitate the same example, still as it is, with difficulty do we exist with their extreme dislike. Of their own enjoyments they would have us to be in want, in resources of our own they would have us not to possess any power, and to stand in need of them in all matters, that we may be their humble servants. If you wait upon them, you'd rather be giving your room than your company. So very kind are they before the world to our class; in private, if ever there's the opportunity, underhandedly they pour cold water upon us. They declare that we are in the habit of having commerce with their husbands; they say that we are their supplanters; they attempt to crush us. Because we are the free daughters of slaves, both I and your mother, we became Courtesans; she brought up yourself, and I this girl *pointing to GYMNASIUM* , by chance-fathers. Nor yet for the sake of vanity have I driven her to the calling of a Courtesan, but that I mightn't starve.

SILENIUM
But it had been better to give her in marriage to a husband in preference.

A PROCURESS
Heyday, now! Surely, faith, she's married to a husband every day;

she has both been married to one to-day, she'll be marrying again to-night. I've never allowed her to go to bed a widow. For if she weren't to be marrying, the household would perish with doleful famine.

GYMNASIUM
It behoves me, mother, to be just as you wish I should be.

A PROCURESS
I' troth, I don't regret it, if you will prove such as you say you'll be; for if, indeed, you shall be such as I intend, you'll never be a Hecale in your old age, and you'll ever keep that same tender age which you now have, and you'll prove a loss to many and a profit to myself full oft, without any outlay of my own.

GYMNASIUM
May the Gods grant it.

A PROCURESS
Without your own energies, the Gods cannot possibly do anything in this.

GYMNASIUM
I' faith, for my own part, I'll zealously devote my energies to it. But what mean you amid this conversation, apple of my eye, my own Silenium? (never did I see you more sad;) prithee, do tell me, why does mirth so shun you? And you are not so neat as you usually are. *SILENIUM sighs.* Do look at that, please, how deep a sigh she heaved. You are pale too. Tell us both what's the matter with you, and in what you want our aid; so that we may know. Prithee, don't by your tears be causing me anxiety.

SILENIUM
My dear Gymnasium, I'm sadly affected; I feel ill, I am shockingly distrest; I am pained in spirits, I feel pain in my eyes, I am in pain from faintness. What shall I say, but that my own folly drives me to sadness?

GYMNASIUM
Take you care, then, that you have your folly entombed in that very same place from which it takes its rise.

SILENIUM
What shall I do?

GYMNASIUM
Hide it in darkness, in the very deepest recesses of your breast. Take you care and have it so, that you yourself are alone sensible of your own folly, without any other witnesses.

SILENIUM
But I've got the heart-ache.

GYMNASIUM
Why so? For what reason have you the heartache, prithee, tell me, a thing that I neither have, nor any other woman whatever, according as the men say?

SILENIUM
If there's any heart to feel pain, it does feel pain; but if there isn't, still this pains me here. *Pointing to her left-side.*

A PROCURESS
This woman's in love.

GYMNASIUM
Come now, to begin to be in love, is it bitter, prithee?

A PROCURESS
Why, troth, love is most fruitful both in honey and in gall; inasmuch as it produces sweetness in a mere taste, but causes bitterness even to repletion.

SILENIUM
Of that character is the malady that afflicts me, my dear Gymnasium.

GYMNASIUM
Love is full of treachery.

SILENIUM
He's taking his spoils of me, then.

GYMNASIUM
Be of good courage, you'll get the better of this malady.

SILENIUM
I trust it will be so, if the physician comes that can administer the medicine to this malady.

GYMNASIUM
He will come.

SILENIUM
A hard expression is that to one in love, "He will come," unless he does come. But by my own fault and foolishness, am I, wretched creature, more afflicted, because for him alone have I longed for myself, with whom to pass my life.

A PROCURESS
That is more suitable to a married woman, my dear Silenium, to love but one, and with him to pass her life, to whom she has once been married; but, indeed, a Courtesan is most like a flourishing city; she cannot alone increase her fortunes without a multitude of men.

SILENIUM
I want you to give heed to this matter; the thing on account of which you have been sent for to me, I'll disclose. Now, my mother, because I don't wish myself to be called a Courtesan, complied with my desire; in that matter she indulged myself who have been obedient to her; to allow me to live with him alone whom I so ardently loved.

A PROCURESS
I' faith, she acted foolishly. But look, have you ever kept company with any man?

SILENIUM
With no one, indeed, except Alcesimarchus; nor has any other person whatever committed an infringement on my chastity.

A PROCURESS
Prithee, by what means did this man gain your good graces?

SILENIUM
At the festival of Bacchus my mother took me to see the procession. While I was returning home, from a secret look-out he secretly traced me even to the door; after that, he insinuated himself into the friendship of my mother and myself as well, by endearments, presents, and gifts.

A PROCURESS
I should like a man of that sort to be offered me. How I'd work him.

SILENIUM
What need is there of words? Through intercourse, I on the other hand began to love him, and he myself.

A PROCURESS
O my dear Silenium —— !

SILENIUM
What's the matter?

A PROCURESS
You ought to pretend to be in love; for if you fall in love at once, you'll be much better consulting the interests of him whom you love than your own.

SILENIUM
But in solemn form he took an oath before my mother that he would take me as his wife. Now, another woman is about to be taken home by him, a Lemnian lady, his relation, who is living here hard by *pointing to DEMIPHO'S house* ; for his father has compelled him. Now my mother is enraged with me, because I didn't return home to

her, when I came to know of this matter, that he was about to take another as his wife.

A PROCURESS
Nothing's unfair in love.

SILENIUM
Now, I entreat you that you'll let her *pointing to GYMNASIUM* be here only for the next three days, and keep house for me; for I've been sent for to my mother's house.

A PROCURESS
Although this will be a troublesome three days for me, and you'll be causing me a loss, I'll do so.

SIL,
You act kindly and like a friend. But you, my dear Gymnasium, if in my absence Alcesimarchus shall come, don't you chide him roughly; however he has deserved of myself, still he has my affections; but, prithee, act gently, so that you mayn't say anything that may cause him pain. Take the keys *giving them to her* ; if you have need to take out anything for use, take it out. I wish to go ——

GYMNASIUM
weeping . How you have drawn tears from me.

SILENIUM
My dear Gymnasium, kindly, farewell.

GYMNASIUM
Take care of yourself, there's a dear. Prithee, will you go in this dishabille? *Pointing to her dress.*

SILENIUM
It's right that such neglect should attend upon my prospects thus disarranged.

GYMNASIUM

At least do lift up that outer garment.

SILENIUM
Let it be dragged, while I myself am being dragged down.

GYMNASIUM
Since so it pleases you, fare you well and prosper.

SILENIUM
If I could, I would. *(Exit.)*

GYMNASIUM
Mother, do you wish anything of me, before I go indoors? Upon my faith, to me she does seem to be in love.

A PROCURESS
For this reason, then, it is, that I'm repeatedly dinning it into your ears, not to be in love with any man. Go in-doors.

GYMNASIUM
Do you wish anything of me?

A PROCURESS
That you may fare well.

GYMNASIUM
Fare you well *GYMNASIUM goes into the house of SILENTIUM.*

The PROCURESS, alone.

A PROCURESS
to the AUDIENCE . It's the same fault with myself as with a great part of us women who are following this calling; who, as soon as ever we have got our load of food, are forthwith full of talk; more than is enough do.we say. Why, myself now, inasmuch as I'm filled to my heart's content, and because I've charged myself quite full of the choicest of wine, it pleases me to use my tongue more at freedom; to my misfortune I can't keep silent on that which it were

necessary to be silent upon. But once upon a time, that girl, who has gone hence in tears, from a lane I carried off a little child exposed. There is here a certain youth, of the highest rank; his father, of a very high family, is living at Sicyon; he is dying desperately in love for this young woman, who has just. now gone hence in tears; on the other hand, she is smitten with love. I made a present of her to my friend, this Courtesan: who had often made mention of it to me that somewhere I must find for her a boy or a girl, just born, that she herself might pass it off as her own. As soon as ever the opportunity befell me, I immediately granted her request in that which she had asked of me. After she had received this female child from me, at once she was brought to bed of the same female child which she had received from me, without the aid of a midwife and without pain, just as other women bring forth, who seek a trouble to themselves; but she said that her lover was a foreigner, and that by reason of that circumstance she was palming it off. This, we two alone are aware of, I who gave the child to her, and she who received it from me; *to the AUDIENCE* except yourselves, indeed. Thus was this affair managed; if any occasion should arise, I wish you to remember this circumstance. I'm off home. *(Exit.)*

Enter the GOD OF HELP, who speaks the PROLOGUE.

THE GOD OF HELP
To the AUDIENCE. This old woman is both a much-talker and a much-tippler. Isn't it the fact that she has hardly left room to a Divinity for him to speak, so much has she forestalled him in talking about the substitution of this girl? But if she had held her tongue, still I was about to mention it — a God, who could do it better; for my name is Help. Now *to the AUDIENCE* lend your attention, that I may clearly explain this plot to you. Some time since, at Sicyon,: there was the Festival of Bacchus; a merchant of Lemnos came hither to the games, and he, an ungovernable young man, ravished a maiden in the dark, in the street, at the dead of night. He, as he knew that he was deserving of a heavy punishment, at once found shelter with his heels, and made off for Lemnos, where he then lived. She whom he had ravished, the ninth ensuing month completed, brought forth a

daughter here. Since she did not know the person guilty of this deed, who he was, she made the servant of her father partaker of her counsels, and gave to that servant the child to be exposed to death. He exposed it; this woman took up the child; that servant, who had exposed it, secretly took note whither or to what house she carried away the child. As you have heard her own self confess, she gave this child to the Courtesan Melænis; and she brought her up as being her own daughter, honestly and virtuously. But then, this Lemnian married a neighbour there, his relation, for his wife. She departed this life; there she was compliant to her husband. After he had performed the due obsequies to his wife, at once he removed hither; here he married for his wife that same woman whom formerly,when a maid, he ravished. When he understood that it was she whom he had ravished, she told him that, in consequence of the violation, she had brought forth a daughter, and had at once given her to a servant to be exposed. He forthwith ordered this same servant to make enquiries, if anyhow he could discover who had taken it up. Now to that task is the servant always assiduously devoting his attention, if he can find out that Courtesan, whom formerly, when he himself exposed her, he from his hidingplace had seen take her up. Now, what remains unpaid, I wish to discharge, that my name may be struck out, so that I mayn't remain a debtor. A young man is here at Sicyon, his father is alive; with affection he distractedly dotes upon this exposed girl, who just now went hence in tears unto her mother; and she loves him in return, which is the most delightful love of all. As human matters go, nothing is granted for everlasting: the father is wishful to give the young man a wife. When the mother came to know of this, she ordered her to be sent for home. Thus have these matters come to pass. Kindly fare you well, and conquer by inborn valour, as you have done before; defend your allies, both ancient ones and new; increase resources by your righteous laws; destroy your foes; laud and laurels gather; that, conquered by you, the Pœni may suffer the penalty. *(Exit.)*

ACT II.

Enter ALCESIMARCHUS and MELÆNIS.

ALCESIMARCHUS
I do believe that Love was the first to invent torture among mankind. This conjecture do I form from myself at home, not to go seek it out of doors; I, who surpass all men, exceed them in the pangs of my feelings. I'm tossed, tormented, agitated, goaded, whirled on the wheel of love in my misery, I'm deprived of sensation, carried one way, carried another way, I'm torn and rent asunder; such clouded faculties of mind have I, where I am, there I am not; where I am not, there my thoughts are; to such a degree have I now all kinds of feelings in me; what I like, then all at once I like not the same; so much does love trifle with me changing my mind, drive me, pursue, desire, and seize for itself, retain, trepan, and promise; what it gives, it gives not; it deludes me; what this moment it has persuaded me, it now dissuades me from; what it has dissuaded me from, it now points out to me that same. After the manner of the sea is it experienced by me; so much does it distract my enamoured feelings; and only in that, in my misery, I do not sink utterly, is there any evil removed from me thus ruined; in such a way has my father detained me these six days running in the country, at his house there; nor has it been allowed me in the meantime to visit my mistress. Isn't this dreadful to relate?

MELAENIS
Are you joking for this reason, because you've got another wife engaged, a rich lady of Lemnos? Have her then! We are neither of a family so great as you are, nor is our wealth so substantial as yours; but still I have no fears that any one will impeach our oath; you then, if you shall feel any pain, will know for what reason you do feel pain.

ALCESIMARCHUS
May the Gods confound me —

MELAENIS
Whatever you wish for, I desire it may befall you.

ALCESIMARCHUS
If ever I'll marry that wife which my father has engaged for me.

MELAENIS
And me, if ever I give you my daughter for a wife.

ALCESIMARCHUS
Will you allow me to be forsworn?

MELAENIS
Yes, and a little more easily than myself and my affairs to go to ruin, and my daughter to be trifled with. Begone! go seek where there is confidence enough in your oaths; here now, with us, Alcesimarchus, you've renounced your title to our friendship.

ALCESIMARCHUS
Make trial of me but once.

MELAENIS
I have made that trial full oft; which I lament has been so made.

ALCESIMARCHUS
Give her back to me.

MELAENIS
Under new circumstances I'll use an old proverb: "What I have given, I wish I had not given; what's left, that I shall not give."

ALCESIMARCHUS
Won't you restore her again to me?

MELAENIS
Answer yourself for me.

ALCESIMARCHUS

You won't restore her then?

MELAENIS
You know the whole of my resolution already.

ALCESIMARCHUS
Is that quite resolved upon by you in your heart?

MELAENIS
Why, in fact, I'm thinking about something else; i' faith, I don't at present catch these words of yours with my ears.

ALCESIMARCHUS
Not hear? Why, what are you doing?

MELAENIS
Then do you give heed at once, that you may know what you are doing.

ALCESIMARCHUS
Then, so may the Gods and Goddesses of above and below, and of middle rank, and so may Juno the queen and the daughter of supreme Jove, and so may Saturn his uncle ——

MELAENIS
I' troth, his father ——

ALCESIMARCHUS
And so may Ops the opulent, his grandam ——

MELAENIS
Indeed, his mother, rather.

ALCESIMARCHUS
Juno his daughter, and Saturn his uncle, supreme Jove — You are maddening me; it's through you I make these mistakes.

MELAENIS

Go on saying so.

ALCESIMARCHUS
Is it that I'm to know what conclusion you are going to come to?

MELAENIS
Go on talking; I shall not send her back, that's resolved upon.

ALCESIMARCHUS
Why then, so may Jupiter, and so may Juno and Saturn, to me, so may — I don't know what to say — Now I know — Yes, madam, listen, that you may know my mind; may all the Deities, great and small, and those honored with the platter * * * cause me not surviving to give a kiss this day to Silenium, if I don't this very day murder you and your daughter and myself, and after that, with the break of day, if I don't to-morrow kill you both, and indeed, by all the powers, if at the third onset I don't demolish you all, if you don't send her back to me. I've said what I intended. Farewell. *Goes into his FATHER'S house.*

MELAENIS
to herself . He's gone in-doors in a rage. What shall I do now? If she comes back to him, matters will be just in the same position. When satiety begins to take possession; he'll be turning her out of doors, when he shall be bringing home this Lemnian wife. But still I'll go and follow him; there's necessity for caution, lest he, in love, should be doing some mischief. In fine, since with strict justice a poor person's not allowed to contend with a rich one, I'll lose my labour rather than lose my daughter. But who's this that straight along the street is directing his course this way? Both the other matter do I fear, and this do I dread; so utterly in trepidation am wretched I. *She stands aside.*

Enter LAMPADISCUS.

LAMPADISCUS
to himself . I've followed the old woman with my clamour through the streets; I've kept her most dreadfully plagued. In what a

multitude of ways has she, this day, kept guard upon herself, and been able to remember nothing. How many alluring things, what advantages I've promised her. Blow many inventions I've applied to her, how many stratagems in questioning her. With difficulty have I extorted it from her that she should tell me, because I promised to give her a cask of wine.

Enter PHANOSTRATA, from her house.

PHANOSTRATA
to herself . I seemed just now to be hearing the voice of my servant Lampadiscus before the house.

LAMPADISCUS
stepping forward . You are not deaf, mistress, you heard aright.

PHANOSTRATA
What are you doing here?

LAMPADISCUS
A thing for you to rejoice at.

PHANOSTRATA
What's that?

LAMPADISCUS
pointing to the house of SILENIUM . A little while ago, I saw a woman coming out of that house there.

PHANOSTRATA
Her that took up my daughter?

LAMPADISCUS
You have the matter rgiht.

PHANOSTRATA
What after that?

LAMPADISCUS
I told her in what way I had seen her take up the daughter of my mistress from the Hippodrome. Then she was in a fright.

MELAENIS
apart . Now my body's in a shudder, my heart is throbbing; for I recollect that from the Hippodrome the little female infant was brought to me, and that I brought it up as my own.

PHANOSTRATA
Come, prithee, do go on; my soul's longing to hear how the matter proceeded.

MELAENIS
apart . I only wish you couldn't hear.

LAMPADISCUS
I proceed * * * saying, "This old woman calls you her daughter wrongfully. * * * * * * * * For this woman here is your foster-mother, so don't think she is your mother. I'm to take you back and invite you to opulence, where you may be settled in a noble family, where your father may present you with twenty great talents for a portion. For this is not a place where after the Etrurian mode you are disgracefully to earn a dowry for yourself by prostitution of your person."

PHANOSTRATA
Is she, pray, a Courtesan, who took it up?

LAMPADISCUS
Yes, she was a Courtesan. But how it happened, I'll tell you about that matter. I was now winning her over to me by my persuasion. The old woman embraced her knees, weeping and entreating that she would not forsake her; saying that she was her own daughter; and she took a solemn oath to me that she herself had borne her. " Her," said she, "whom you are in search of, I gave to a friend of mine to bring her up as her own daughter; and she is alive," said she. "Where is she?" immediately said I.

PHANOSTRATA
Preserve me, ye Gods, I do entreat you.

MELAENIS
apart . But me you are undoing!

PHANOSTRATA
You ought to have enquired to whom she gave it.

LAMPADISCUS
I did enquire, and she said to the Courtesan Melænis.

MELAENIS
apart . He has mentioned my name? I'm utterly undone!

LAMPADISCUS
When she mentioned her, I straightway asked, "Where does she live?" said I; "take and show me." "She has been carried off hence," says she, "to live abroad."

MELAENIS
He's sprinkling a little cold water now.

LAMPADISCUS
"Wherever she has been carried off, thither we will follow. Do you trifle in this fashion? You are undone, if, i' faith, you don't disclose this."I insisted to such a degree, that the old woman swore that she would soon inform me.

PHANOSTRATA
But you oughtn't to have let her go.

LAMPADISCUS
She's all safe; but she said that she wished first to meet a certain woman, a friend of hers, with whom this was a matter of interest in common, and I'm sure she'll come.

MELAENIS

apart . She'll be discovering me, and adding her own distress to mine.

PHANOSTRATA
Make me acquainted what you now wish me to do.

LAMPADISCUS
Go in-doors, and be of good heart. If your husband shall come, bid him wait at home, lest he should be required by me, if I want him for anything. I'm going to run back to the old woman.

PHANOSTRATA
Lampadio, prithee, do take care.

LAMPADISCUS
I'll have this matter well managed.

PHANOSTRATA
I trust in the Gods and in yourself.

LAMPADISCUS
And I in the same. — that you'll now go home. *PHANOSTRATA goes into her house.*

MELAENIS
coming forward . Young man, stay and listen.

LAMPADISCUS
What, are you calling to me, woman?

MELAENIS
To you.

LAMPADISCUS
What's the matter? For I'm fully engaged.

MELAENIS
Pointing to the house of DEMIPHO . Who lives there?

LAMPADISCUS
Demipho, my master.

MELAENIS
It is he, I suppose, that has betrothed his daughter with such great wealth to Alcesimarchus?

LAMPADISCUS
It is he himself.

MELAENIS
How now, you? What other daughter, then, are you people now in search of?

LAMPADISCUS
I'll tell you; not his daughter by his wife, but his wife's daughter.

MELAENIS
What's the meaning of that speech?

LAMPADISCUS
By a former woman, I say, my master had a daughter born.

MELAENIS
Surely, just now you said you were in search of the daughter of her who has been talking here.

LAMPADISCUS
Her daughter I am in search of.

MELAENIS
In what way then, pray, is she a "former woman," who is now his wife?

LAMPADISCUS
Woman, whoever you are, you weary me with your prating. The middle woman whom he had for a wife, of her this maiden was born that's being given to Alcesimarchus. That wife is dead. Do you

understand now?

MELAENIS
I understand that quite well; but it's this knotty point I'm enquiring about, how the first can be the last, the last be the first.

LAMPADISCUS
The fact is this; this woman he ravished before he took her home as his wife; before that she was pregnant, and before that she gave birth to a daughter: after she gave birth to her, she ordered the infant to be exposed; I myself exposed her; another woman took her away; I was on the look-out; after that, my master married her. That girl, her daughter, we are now in search of. *MELÆNIS turns aside her head.* Why now, with face upturned, are you looking up towards the heavens?

MELAENIS
Now, then, be off at once whither you were hastening; I won't detain you; I understand it now.

LAMPADISCUS
I' troth, to the Deities I do give thanks; for if you hadn't understood me, I do think you would never have let me go. *(Exit.)*

MELAENIS
to herself . Now it's necessary for me to be honest, whether I will or no, although I had rather not; I find the thing is discovered. Now will I myself lay them under an obligation to me, rather than she shall peach upon me. I'll go home, and I'll bring Silenium to her parents. *(Exit.)*

ACT III.

Enter MELÆnis, SILENIUM, and HALISCA.

MELAENIS
I've disclosed the whole matter to you; follow, my Silenium, that you may rather belong to those to whom you ought to belong, than be mine. Although against my will I shall part with you, still I'll reconcile my mind to consult that which in especial conduces to your benefit. *Giving her a casket.* For here in this are the trinkets, together with which she who gave you to me formerly brought you to me; that your parents may recognize you the more easily. Take this casket, Halisca, and then go and knock at that door *pointing to the house of DEMIPHO* : say that I request that some one will come from within. Make haste, quickly. *Enter ALCESIMARCHUS, from his FATHER'S house, with his sword drawn.*

ALCESIMARCHUS
calling aloud . Death, receive me unto thyself, a friend and well-wisher to me!

SILENIUM
My mother, to our sorrow, we are undone!

ALCESIMARCHUS
aloud, to himself . Whether shall I pierce my side here *striking his right side* or on the left.

MELAENIS
to SILENIUM . What's the matter with you?

SILENIUM
pointing . Don't you see Alcesimarchus? He's grasping a sword.
ALC. *aloud, in a frantic manner* . What art about? Thou art delaying. Quit the light of day.

SILENIUM

Do run and aid him, pray, that he mayn't kill himself. *They run to assist him, on which HALISCA drops the casket.*

ALCESIMARCHUS
O Safety more healthful than my own safety, you now, whether I wish or don't wish, alone do cause me to live.

MELAENIS
Fie on it! Were you ready to commit such violence?

ALCESIMARCHUS
I've nought to do with you — to you I'm dead. *Clasping SILENIUM in his arms.* Her, as I hold her, I'm determined not to lose. For, by heaven, I am resolved henceforth to have her entirely rivetted fast unto me. *Goes to the door of the house, and calls.* Where are you, servants? Shut the door with bolts, with bars, when I shall have carried her within the threshold! *He carries SILENIUM into the house, followed by HALISCA.*

MELAENIS
exclaiming, while wringing her hands . He's gone off: he has carried the damsel away. I'll go — I'll at once follow him in-doors, that he may know of me these same things, if from being angered with me I can render him pleased. *Goes into the house.*

ACT IV.

Enter LAMPADISCUS.

LAMPADISCUS
I do believe I never saw a more tormenting old nag than this is. What she just now confessed to me, is she to be denying it? But look, I see my mistress. Why *seeing the casket on the ground* , how's this, that this casket is lying here with these trinkets, and that I see no other person in the street? I must act the child's part; I'll stoop to pick up the casket. *Picks it up. from her house.*

PHANOSTRATA
What are you about, Lampadio?

LAMPADISCUS
giving the casket to PHANOSTRATA . Is this casket from out of our house here, I wonder. For I picked it up, lying here near the door.

PHANOSTRATA
What news do you bring about the old woman?

LAMPADISCUS
That there's not one other on earth more wicked. She denies all those things which she just now confessed to me. But, i' faith, for me to allow that old jade to be laughing at me, it's preferable for me to die by any kind of death.

PHANOSTRATA
Ye Gods, I do adjure you by our trust in you! *Opening the casket.*

LAMPADISCUS
Why do you call upon the Gods?

PHANOSTRATA
Save us!

LAMPADISCUS
What's the matter?

PHANOSTRATA
These are the trinkets with which you exposed my little daughter to death.

LAMPADISCUS
Are you in your senses?

PHANOSTRATA
These certainly are.

LAMPADISCUS
Do you persist?

PHANOSTRATA
These are they.

LAMPADISCUS
If any other woman were to speak to me after that fashion, I should say she was drunk.

PHANOSTRATA
By heaven! I'm talking no nonsense. But prithee, whence in the world did these come, or what Deity placed this before our door? As though for a given purpose, at the very instant sacred Hope comes to my aid?

Enter HALISCA, at a distance, from the house of the FATHER of ALCESIMARCHUS.

HAL.
to herself . Unless the Gods give me some aid, I'm utterly undone; nor do I know whence I am to seek for aid. To such a degree does carelessness possess wretched me in mind, which I sadly fear may be lighting upon my own back, if my mistress knows that I'm so negligent as I really am. The casket which I took and held in my

hands here before the door, where it is I know not; except, as I fancy, it was dropt by me about this spot. *Looks about on the ground.* My good sirs *to the AUDIENCE* , my kind Spectators, do give me information if any one has seen it, if any one has taken it away, or any one picked it up; and whether in this direction or that he has taken his departure? *She pauses for a reply.* I'm none the wiser for asking these persons, or for worrying them, who are always delighted at a woman's mishaps. Now I'll mark if there are any footsteps here; for if no one had passed this way since I went in-doors, the casket would be lying here. Why say "here?" It's lost, I guess; it's done for. It's all over with unhappy and unlucky me! It's nowhere, and nowhere am I. This, by its loss, has proved my loss. But still, as I've begun, I'll e'en go on; I'll make search; for both within do I fear, and without I am afraid; so much, on either side, does fear agitate me now. In this are mortals intensely wretched. He is now joyous, whoever he is, that has found it, which is of no use at all to any person else; to myself it may be. But I cause delay to myself, while I'm doing this with remissness. Halisca, attend to what you are about: look down upon the ground, and look round about; search with your eyes; guess with shrewdness.

LAMPADISCUS
apart, at a distance . Mistress!

PHANOSTRATA
apart . Well, what's the matter?

LAMPADISCUS
apart . That's she. *Pointing at HALISCA.*

PHANOSTRATA
apart . Who?

LAMPADISCUS
apart. She who let fall the casket. Why surely she's tracing out that spot where it fell.

PHANOSTRATA

apart. It seems so.

HAL.
to herself, looking on the ground . But that person has gone this way; this way I perceive the imprint of his shoe; this way I'll follow him. *She moves along, still looking on the ground.* In this spot now has he stopped, along with another person. Here now a circle presents itself to my sight, nor did he go straight forward this way; here he came to a pause. This way did he come out of that circle. Here was a conference with some one. It points to two persons now. Who are these? Heyday I see the footsteps of only one. But he has gone this way. I'll consider it: hither he went from thence; from hence he has never gone. I'm troubling myself to no purpose. What's lost is lost; my hide along with the casket. I'll go in-doors again. *Going towards the house of the FATHER of ALCESIMARCHUS.*

PHANOSTRATA
calling out . Hallo, woman-stop; there are some persons who wish to meet with you.

HAL.
Who's calling me back?

LAMPADISCUS
A good female and a bad male want you.

HAL.
Away with you, bad male; I want a good one. *To herself.* After all, he who calls knows better what he wants than I who am called; I'll return. *Aloud.* Prithee, have you seen any person hereabouts pick up a casket with some trinkets, which I, to my misfortune, have lost here? For when, just now, we were running into the house of Alcesimarchus, that he mightn't put an end to his life, at that moment I think that, through terror, the casket fell down from me here.

LAMPADISCUS
aside to PHANOSTRATA . This woman's to our purpose; let's then give heed to her a little, mistress.

HAL.
To my sorrow, I'm utterly undone. What shall I say to my mistress, who bade me with such earnestness take care of it, through which Silenium might the more readily recognize her parents — who, when little, was adopted by my mistress as her own, and whom a certain Courtesan gave to her?

LAMPADISCUS
aside . She's talking about this matter of ours. According as she gives these indications by her talk, she must surely know where your daughter is.

HAL.
Now is she desirous of her own accord to restore her to her father and mother, whose daughter she is; prithee, my good sir, you are attending to something else; I commend my matter to you.

LAMPADISCUS
I'm giving my attention to this, and this is as good as food to me, that you are talking of; but amid my attending to this matter, I was answering this mistress of mine what she was enquiring; now I return to you. If you have need of anything, say you, and give your orders. What were you looking, for?

HAL.
My good sir and my good madam, I greet you.

PHANOSTRATA
And we you. But what are you looking for?

HAL.
I'm tracing footsteps here, the way that something has escaped me here, I don't know how.

PHANOSTRATA
What is it?

LAMPADISCUS

What is it, pray?

HAL.
Something to bring a loss to another, and a calamity on our family.

LAMPADISCUS
aside to PHANOSTRATA . A worthless baggage is this, mistress, and a crafty one.

PHANOSTRATA
aside . I' faith, and so she seems.

LAMPADISCUS
aside . She imitates a worthless animal and a mischievous.

PHANOSTRATA
aside . Which one, prithee? LAM. *aside* . A caterpillar, which twisting about winds itself in the leaf of the vine; just in the same way does she begin a story that twists about. *To HALISCA.* What are you looking for?

HAL.
A casket, my good young man, has flown away from me here.

LAMPADISCUS
You ought to have put it in a cage.

HAL.
I' faith, the booty was no great one.

LAMPADISCUS
It's a wonder, if a whole troop of slaves isn't there in the casket.

PHANOSTRATA
Do let her speak.

LAMPADISCUS
If indeed she would speak.

PHANOSTRATA
to HALISCA . Come say you, what was in it?

HAL.
Trinkets only.

LAMPADISCUS
There's a certain man, who declares that he knows where it is.

HAL.
But, by my faith, he'll confer an obligation on a certain woman if he'll discover it.

LAMPADISCUS
But this certain man wishes a reward to be given to him.

HAL.
But, by my faith, this certain woman, that has lost this casket, declares that she has nothing to give to this certain man.

LAMPADISCUS
But still this certain man looks for some money.

HAL.
But still he looks for it in vain.

LAMPADISCUS
But, by my faith, good woman, in no matter does this certain man give his pains for nothing.

PHANOSTRATA
Lend me your conversation: it will now be for your own advantage. We confess that we have got the casket.

HAL.
Then may Salvation preserve you; where is it now?

PHANOSTRATA

producing the casket . See, here it is, safe. But I wish to discourse with you upon a matter of importance to myself; I take you as a sharer with me in my own preservation.

HAL.
What matter is this, or who are you?

PHANOSTRATA
I am the mother of her who had these things with her, when exposed.

HAL.
Do you live here then? *Pointing to the house.*

PHANOSTRATA
You are a diviner. But, prithee, good woman, do lay aside all mystification, and to the point; tell me at once, whence did you get these trinkets?

HAL.
This daughter of my mistress had them.

LAMPADISCUS
You tell a falsehood; for my own mistress's daughter had them, not yours.

PHANOSTRATA
Don't interrupt.

LAMPADISCUS
I'll be mum.

PHANOSTRATA
Good woman, go on speaking. Where is she who had them?

HAL.
pointing to the house of ALCESIMARCHUS . Here, next door.

PHANOSTRATA

By the powers, surely the son-in-law of my husband is living there.

LAMPADISCUS
Surely ——

PHANOSTRATA
to LAMPADISCUS . Interrupting again? *To HALISCA.* Go on relating it. How many years old is she said to be?

HAL.
Seventeen.

PHANOSTRATA
She is my own daughter then!

LAMPADISCUS
'Tis she, as the number of her years has proved.

HAL.
What you are seeking, you have found; I now seek what's mine.

LAMPADISCUS
Why, faith, they've found what's their own, I'll seek for number three.

PHANOSTRATA
My daughter, the object which I was seeking, I have discovered.

HAL.
It's proper to keep in safety what has been entrusted in confidence, lest a kindness should turn out a detriment to the well-deserving. This fosterling of ours is assuredly your daughter, and my mistress is about to restore you your own, and for that purpose has she come from her house. But, prithee, enquire of her own self; I am but a servant.

PHANOSTRATA
You ask what's just.

HAL.
To her rather do I choose this obligation to belong. But I beg that you'll restore me that casket.

PHANOSTRATA
What's to be done, Lampadio?

LAMPADISCUS
What's your own, keep as your own.

PHANOSTRATA
But I feel compassion for her.

LAMPADISCUS
This I think ought to be done; give her the casket, and go in-doors together with her.

PHANOSTRATA
I'll follow your advice. *Giving it to HALISCA.* Take you the casket. Let's go in-doors. But what's the name of your mistress?

HAL.
Melænis.

PHANOSTRATA
Go first; I'll follow you at once. *Exit LAMPADISCUS, and the others go into the house of the FATHER of ALCESIMARCHUS.*

ACT V.

Enter DEMIPHO.

DEMIPHO
What affair is this, that all persons are talking about in the street — that my daughter has been found? They say, too, that Lampadio has been seeking me in the Forum. *Enter LAMPADISCUS.*

LAMPADISCUS
Master, whence come you?

DEMIPHO
From the Senate.

LAMPADISCUS
I rejoice that through my means there is an addition to your children.

DEMIPHO
But it don't please me; I don't want that I should be having more children by means of another person. But what is the meaning of this?

LAMPADISCUS
pointing to the house of the FATHER of ALCESIMARCHUS . Make haste, and go in-doors here to the house of your neighbour; you'll at once recognize your daughter. Your wife's in-doors there as well. Go quickly.

DEMIPHO
I'm resolved that this shall, before all other matters, be attended to. *They go into the house of the FATHER of ALCESIMARCHUS.*

The Company of COMEDIANS
Don't you wait, Spectators, till they come out to you; no one will come out; they'll all finish the business indoors; when that shall be done, they'll lay aside their dress; then, after that, he that has done

amiss will get a beating; he that has not done amiss will get some drink. Now as to what's left, Spectators, for you to do, after the manner of your ancestors, give your applause at the conclusion of the Play.

CURCULIO

Translated by Henry Thomas Riley

The shortest of Plautus' extant plays, *Curculio* concerns the young man Phaedromus, who is in love with Planesium, a slave girl belonging to the pimp Cappadox. Phaedromus sends Curculio (a stock parasite character) to borrow money to help him buy Planesium. Unsuccessful, Curculio happens to run into Therapontigonus, a soldier that intends to purchase Planesium. After Curculio learns of his plans, he steals the soldier's ring and returns to Phaedromus. They fake a letter and seal it using the ring. Curculio takes it to the soldier's banker Lyco, tricking him into thinking he was sent by Therapontigonus. Lyco pays Cappadox, under the conditions that the money will be returned if it is later discovered that she is freeborn. Curculio takes the girl back to Phaedromus. When the trick is later discovered, the angry Therapontigonus confronts the others…

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THE SUBJECT.

PHÆDROMUS
is desperately in love with Planesium, who is in the possession of Cappadox, an avaricious Procurer. Not having the means of obtaining her freedom, Phædromus sends Curculio, his Parasite, to Caria, to borrow the money from a friend. The friend being unable to lend it, Curculio by accident meets a military officer, named Therapontigonus, and is invited by him to dinner. The Captain accidentally mentions to him that he has agreed to purchase Planesium of the Procurer, and that the money is deposited with Lyco, the banker, who, has been ordered, on receiving a letter signed with the Captain's signet, to have the young woman delivered to the bearer. While the Captain is overpowered with wine, Curculio steals his signet, and hastens back to Epidaurus, where he forges a letter by means of it, which he delivers to Lyco, as though from the Captain. The money is paid to the Procurer, and Planesium is handed over to Curculio; a condition having been previously made, that if she should turn out to be a free woman by birth, the money shall be repaid to the purchaser. Curculio then delivers Planesium to Phædromus. The same day, the Captain arrives at Epidaurus, and is soon after recognized by Planesium as her brother, through the medium of the ring, which had belonged to her father. To corroborate her assertion, Planesium produces another ring, which Therapontigonus had presented to her when a child as a birthday present. On this, she is given by her brother in marriage to Phædromus; and Cappadox, much against his will, is forced to refund the money to the Captain.

THE ACROSTIC ARGUMENT.

[Supposed to have been written by Priscian the Grammarian.]

On an errand of Phædromus, Curculio (Curculio) goes to Caria, that (Ut) he may obtain some money; there he despoils the rival (Rivalem) of Phædromus of his ring. He writes a letter, and seals it with that seal. Lyco, when he sees it, recognizes (Cognoscit) the seal of the Captain; that (Ut) he may send him his mistress, he pays the money to the Procurer. The Captain threatens to summon Lyco (Lyconem) and the Procurer to justice: he himself (Ipsus) discovers his sister that was lost, at whose request (Oratu) he gives her in marriage to Phædromus.

ACT I.

(Before daybreak.) Enter at one side of the stage PHÆDROMUS, with a lighted torch, and followed by SLAVES with wine and provisions for an entertainment, and PALINURUS on the opposite side.

PALINURUS
Whither away must I say that you are going out of doors at this time o' night, Phædromus, with that dress and with this train?

PHÆD.
Whither Venus and Cupid summon me, and Love persuades me; whether 'tis the midnight or whether the earliest twilight, if the day is fixed for pleading your cause with your antagonist, still must you go where they command you, whether you will or no.

PALINURUS
But pray, pray ——

PHÆD.
Pray —— you are annoying to me.

PALINURUS
Really that is neither pretty nor befitting you to say. You are your own servant; in your fine garb you are showing the light with your waxen torch.

PHÆD.
And ought I not to carry that which is gathered by the labour of the little bees — which has its birth in sweets — to my own sweet one, my little honey?

PALINURUS
But whither must I say that you are going?

PHÆD.

If you ask me that, I'll tell, so that you may know.

PALINURUS
If I make the enquiry, what would you answer me?

PHÆD.
This is the Temple *pointing to it* of Æsculapius.

PALINURUS
That I have known for more than a twelvemonth past.

PHÆD.
Close to it is that door, dear as my very eyes. *Points to the door of CAPPADOX.* Hail to you! door, dear as my very eyes; have you been quite well of late?

PALINURUS
Did a fever leave you but yesterday, or the day before, and did you take your dinner yesterday?

PHÆD.
Are you laughing at me?

PALINURUS
Why then, madman, are you enquiring whether the door is well or not?

PHÆD.
I' faith, I've known it as a door most comely and most discreet: never one word does it whisper; when it is opened, it is silent; and when, by night, she secretly comes out to me, it holds its peace.

PALINURUS
And are you not, Phædromus, doing, or contemplating the doing of, some deed which is unworthy of yourself or of your family? Are you not laying a snare for some modest fair one, or for one that should be modest?

PHÆD.
For no one; and may Jupiter not permit me to do so.

PALINURUS
I wish the same. Ever, if you are wise, so bestow your love, that if the public should know the object which you love, it may be no disgrace to you. Ever do you take care that you be not disgraced.

PHÆD.
What means that expression?

PALINURUS
For you to proceed with caution on your path; the object that you love, love in the presence of witnesses.

PHÆD.
Why, 'tis a Procurer that lives here. *He points.*

PALINURUS
No one drives you away from there, nor yet forbids you, if you have the money, to buy what's openly on sale. No one forbids any person from going along the public road, so long as he doesn't make a path through the field that's fenced around; so long as you keep yourself away from the wife, the widow, the maiden, youthful age, and free-born children, love what you please.

PHÆD.
This is the house of a Procurer.

PALINURUS
A curse befall it.

PHÆD.
Why so?

PALINURUS
Because it serves in an infamous service.

PHÆD.
You speak out.

PALINURUS
Be it so, most especially.

PHÆD.
Once more, will you hold your tongue?

PALINURUS
You bade me speak out, I thought.

PHÆD.
Then, now I forbid you. But, as I had begun to say, he has a young female slave ——

PALINURUS
This Procurer, you mean, who's living here?

PHÆD.
You have hold of it exactly.

PALINURUS
The less shall I be in dread of its falling.

PHÆD.
You are impertinent. He wishes to make her a courtesan, while she is desperately in love with me; whereas I don't wish to have her upon loan.

PALINURUS
Why so?

PHÆD.
Because I'm for having her as my own; I love her equally as well.

PALINURUS
Clandestine courtship is bad; 'tis utter ruin.

PHÆD.
I' troth, 'tis so as you say.

PALINURUS
Has she as yet submitted to the yoke of Venus?

PHÆD.
For me she is as chaste as though she were my own sister, unless, indeed, she is any the more unchaste for some kissing.

PALINURUS
Always, do you understand, flame follows very close on smoke; with smoke, nothing can be burnt, with flame, it can. He who wishes to eat the kernel of the nut, first breaks the nut; he who wishes to seduce, opens the dance with kisses.

PHÆD.
But she is chaste, and never yet has bestowed her favours upon man.

PALINURUS
That I could believe, if any Procurer had any shame.

PHÆD.
Well, but what think you of her? When she has any opportunity, she steals away to me; when she has given me a kiss, she's off again. This happens by reason of this, because this Procurer is lying a-bed ill in the Temple of Æsculapius; that fellow is my torturer.

PALINURUS
How so?

PHÆD.
At one time he asks me for thirty minæ for her, at another for a great talent; and from him I cannot obtain any fair and just dealing.

PALINURUS
You are too exacting, in requiring that of him which no Procurer possesses.

PHÆD.
Now, I've sent my Parasite hence to Caria, to ask for money on loan from my friend; if he doesn't bring me this, which way to turn myself I know not.

PALINURUS
If you salute the Deities, towards the right I think; now this is this altar of Venus before their door.

PHÆD.
I have already vowed to bring me an early breakfast for my Venus.

PALINURUS
What? Will you then be giving up yourself as a breakfast to Venus?

PHÆD.
Myself, and you, and all of these. *Pointing to the SLAVES.*

PALINURUS
Then you would have Venus to be sick outright.

PHÆD.
to an ATTENDANT . Here, boy, give me the bowl.

PALINURUS
What are you going to do?

PHÆD.
You'll know directly. An old hag is in the habit of sleeping here, as the keeper of the door; the name of the Procuress is "Much-bibber" and "Neat-bibber."

PALINURUS
Just as you would speak of a flagon, in which Chian wine is wont to be.

PHÆD.
What need is there of words? She is a most vinous soul; and the very

moment that I've sprinkled this door with the wine, she knows by the smell that I'm here, and opens it forthwith.

PALINURUS
Is it for her the bowl is brought with the wine?

PHÆD.
Unless you object.

PALINURUS
I' faith, I do object; for I'd rather have it broken about him who has brought it. I fancied it was brought for ourselves.

PHÆD.
Why don't you hold your tongue? If any's left after her, it will be enough for ourselves.

PALINURUS
What river is it, pray, that the sea does not receive?

PHÆD.
Follow me this way, Palinurus, to the door; do you be obedient to me.

PALINURUS
I'll do so. *They advance to the door of the PROCURER'S house.*

PHÆD.
sprinkling the door with wine . Come, drink, you joyous door, quaff on, readily prove propitious unto me.

PALINURUS
in an afected tone . Door, would you like some olives or a tit-bit, or some capers?

PHÆD.
Arouse and send out here to me your portress.

PALINURUS
You're spilling the wine; what matter is it that possesses you? *Takes hold of his arm.*

PHÆD.
Let me alone. Don't you see? This most joyous door is opening; does the hinge make a bit of creaking? 'Tis a charming one.

PALINURUS
Why don't you then give it a kiss?

PHÆD.
Hold your tongue; let's keep back the light and our noise.

PALINURUS
Be it so. *They stand apart, leaving the bowl near the door.*

Enter the PROCURESS, from the house of CAPPADOX.

PROC.
The savour of aged wine has reached my nostrils; the love of it has brought me in my eagerness hither in the dark; wherever it is, it's near me. O capital, I've found it. *Stooping, and smelling at the bowl.* Hail to you, my soul, Joy of dear Bacchus; how enamoured am I of your old age. For in comparison with yours, the odour of all unguents were mere bilge-water; you are my myrrh, you my cinnamon, you my rose, you my saffron unguent and my cassia, you are my vine-palm scent. But, where you have been poured, there would I most earnestly hope to be buried.

PALINURUS
apart . This old lady's thirsty; how limited is her thirst? PHÆD.
apart . She's a moderate person; she swallows eight gallons only.

PALINURUS
apart . I' faith, according to your account, this year's vintage is not enough for this old woman alone.

PROC.
But since as yet you, fragrance, alone have penetrated to my nostrils, so in its turn afford some delight to my throat. *Feels for the bowl on the ground, which PALINURUS draws away.* I find you not; where is your own dear self? I'm longing to touch you; do let me pour your liquids into me by sip-sipping. But in this direction it has gone, this way I'll. follow it. *Goes in the direction of PALINURUS, who has the bowl.*

PALINURUS
apart . It really had been more proper for her to be a dog; she has a good nose.

PROC.
Prithee, whose voice is it that I hear at a distance.

PHÆD.
apart . I think that this old hag should be accosted. I'll approach her. *Aloud.* Come back, Procuress, and look back towards me.

PROC.
Who is it that gives his commands?

PHÆD.
The all-powerful in wine, jolly Bacchus; he who, when you're hawking, parched, and half asleep, brings you a draught and comes to quench your thirst.

PROC.
How far is he away from me?

PHÆD.
holding up the torch . See this light.

PROC.
Then, prithee, do quicken your pace towards me.

PHÆD.

Health to you.

PROC.
How can I have health, who am parched with thirst?

PHÆD.
But you shall drink in a moment.

PROC.
’Tis long a-coming.

PHÆD.
extending the bowl . Here’s for you, jolly old dame.

PROC.
Health to you, gentleman dear as my very eyes.

PALINURUS
Come, toss this off quickly into your abyss; scour out your sink right speedily.

PHÆD.
Hold your tongue; I won’t have her ill spoken to.

PALINURUS
aside . In preference, then, I’ll do her ill.

PROC.
pouring some of the residue on the altar . Venus, of this little, this very little will I give to thee — sore against my will; for all the lovers, in their cups, to propitiate thee, expend their wine upon thee: not such windfalls often fall to me. *Drinks again.*

PALINURUS
Do look at that, please, how greedily the filthy hag swills down the pure wine into herself with distended gullet.

PROC.

patting her stomach and chuckling . Ha, ha, ha

PALINURUS
How is it? Do you like it?

PROC.
I do like it.

PALINURUS
And I, too, should like to goad with a spur as well.

PHÆD.
aside to PALINURUS . Don't you — do hold your tongue.

PALINURUS
I'll hold my tongue; *the old woman drinks* but see, the rainbow's drinking; I' faith, I do believe it will rain to-day.

PHÆD.
Troth now, I'm quite undone; what first to say to her I know not.

PALINURUS
Why, the same thing that you said to me.

PHÆD.
What's that?

PALINURUS
Say that you're quite undone.

PHÆD.
May the Gods confound you.

PALINURUS
Say so to her.

PHÆD.
Am I to say then to her —— ?

PALINURUS
Say what?

PHÆD.
That I'm quite undone.

PALINURUS
Well then, say so.

PHÆD.
Old lady, do listen. I wish you to know this; to my sorrow, I'm quite undone.

PROC.
But, i' faith, for my part, I'm altogether brought to life. But why is it that you are pleased to say you are quite undone?

PHÆD.
Because I'm deprived of the object which I love. *Pretends to weep*

PROC.
My dear Phædromus, prithee, do not weep; do you take care that I'm not thirsty, I'll at once bring out here for you the object which you love. *Goes into the house.*

PHÆD.
Assuredly, if you keep faith with me, in place of a golden statue, I'll erect for you one of wine, which shall be a memorial of your gullet Palinurus, who on earth will be so blest as myself, if she comes to me?

PALINURUS
By my faith, he who is in love, if he is in want as well, is afflicted with a dreadful malady.

PHÆD.
Such is not the case with me; for I feel sure that this very day my Parasite will come hither to me with the money.

PALINURUS
You attempt something mighty, if you expect that which nowhere exists.

PHÆD.
What if I approach the door, and trill a carol?

PALINURUS
If you choose; I neither bid nor request you, since, my master, I see that you are of manners and disposition thus changed.

PHÆD.
sings . Bolts, O ye bolts, with pleasure do I salute you. I love you, I court you, I seek you, and you entreat; most kindly lend your aid to me in love; become, for my sake, as though play-actors from foreign climes; leap upwards pray, and send out of doors this fair one, who drains my blood for me distractedly in love. *Addressing PALINURUS.* Look at that, how those most accursed bolts sleep on, and none the quicker for my sake do they bestir themselves. *Addressing the door.* I see quite clearly that you don't value my esteem at all. Hist! hush, hush!

PALINURUS
I' troth, for my part I'm silent enough.

PHÆD.
I hear a noise; at last, i' faith, these bolts have become complaisant to me.

Re-enter the PROCURESS, with PLANESIUM, from the house of CAPPADOX.

PROC.
to PLANESIUM, while opening the door . Come softly out, and prevent the noise of the doors and the creaking of the hinges, my dear Planesium, that our master mayn't perceive that that is going on which we are doing here. Stay, I'll pour a little water on it. *Pours water on the hinges.*

PALINURUS
to PHÆDROMUS . Do you see how the palsied hag is giving her dose? She herself has learnt right well to drink up the wine; to the door she's giving water for it to drink.

PLANESIUM
looking around . Where are you — you who have summoned me on the recognizances of Venus? To you do I present myself, and, in the same way do I call on you, on the other hand, to present yourself to me.

PHÆD.
stepping forward . Here I am; for could I be absent, I wouldn't repine for any misfortune to befall me, my honey. PLAN. My life, it is not becoming for one thus in love to be at a distance.

PHÆD.
Palinurus, Palinurus!

PALINURUS
Say on; why is it that you call upon Palinurus?

PHÆD.
aside . She is a charming one.

PALINURUS
aside . Aye, too charming. PHÆD. I am a God.

PALINURUS
Why, no — a mortal, of no great value.

PHÆD.
What have you seen, or what will you see, more nearly to be compared with the Gods?

PALINURUS
You are not in your senses, master; a thing that's grievous to me.

PHÆD.
You are not sufficiently respectful to me: hold your tongue.

PALINURUS
The person that sees the object which he loves, and enjoys not the opportunity while he may, is one who torments his own self.

PHÆD.
Rightly does he rebuke me; really there's nothing which for this long time past I have more eagerly desired.

PLANESIUM
Clasp me, embrace me then.

PHÆD.
embracing her . This, too, is a reason for which I could wish to live; because your master restrains, you, in secret do I court you.

PLANESIUM
Restrain me? He neither can restrain me, nor will he restrain me, unless death should separate my soul from you.

PHÆD.
Let monarchs keep their kingdoms to themselves, the rich their riches to themselves, to themselves their honors, to themselves their prowess, to themselves their combats, to themselves their battles; so long as they abstain from envying me, let each one of them keep what is his own.

PALINURUS
aside . Of a truth, I cannot refrain from giving a lecture to my master; for, really, it is good to love in a moderate degree; to distraction, it is not good; but to love to entire distraction, is the thing that my master's doing. *Aloud.* What say you, sir? Have you made a vow, Phædromus, you'd watch the night through for Venus? For really, upon my faith, before very long hence the dawn will be breaking.

PRÆD.

Do hold your tongue.

PALINURUS
Why hold my tongue? What, are you going to sleep?

PHÆD.
I am asleep; don't you make a noise.

PALINURUS
Why, but you're broad awake.

PHÆD.
Age, but after my own fashion I'm asleep; this is my slumber.

PALINURUS
to PLANESIUM . A word with you, madam; 'tis thoughtlessness to treat amiss one who deserves it not.

PLANESIUM
You would be angry, if, when you are eating, he were to drive you away from your food.

PALINURUS
aside . It's all over with him. I see that these two are equally in love to distraction; and both of them are mad. D'ye see how intensely they hug each other? They cannot embrace enough. *Addressing them.* Are you going to part yet?

PLANESIUM
No human being has blessings that last for ever. To this pleasure, then, is that plague added.

PALINURUS
What say you, you shocking hussy? What, you little tipsy ninny, are even you with your owlish eyes to be calling me a plague, you whipper-snapper?

PHÆD.

What, you abusing my own Venus? And really, is a slave well trounced with the rod to be commencing a discussion with myself? But, by the powers, you've surely said that to your own misfortune. *Strikes him.* There, take that, by way of punishment for this abusive language, that you may be able to put a check upon your speech.

PALINURUS
to PLANESIUM . Your aid, I pray, you night- watching Venus.

PHÆD.
What, do you still persist, whip- scoundrel? *Strikes hint.*

PLANESIUM
Don't, there's a dear, be beating a stone, lest you should hurt your hand.

PALINURUS
You perpetrate, Phædromus, a flagitious and a shameful deed of great enormity; one who directs you aright, you pummel with your fists; her you are in love with, a mere nonentity. Is it right that you should behave yourself in this unreasonable manner?

PHÆD.
Find me a reasonable lover against his weight in gold; here, take the gold of me. *Holds out his purse.*

PALINURUS
Do you find me a person for me to serve in his sound senses against his weight in double-distilled gold.

PLANESIUM
Kindly fare you well, apple of my eye, for I hear the sound and creaking of doors; I think the keeper is opening the temple. But, prithee, in this same manner shall we always enjoy our love by stealth?

PHÆD.
Far from it; for I sent my Parasite four days since to Caria to fetch

some money; he'll be here to-day.

PLANESIUM
You are very long in your contriving.

PHÆD.
So may Venus love me, I'll never allow you to be three days in this house here, before I procure your liberty.

PLANESIUM
Take care to remember it. Once more, before I go hence, take this kiss. *Kisses him.*

PHÆD.
By heavens, really if a kingdom now were offered me, I should not obtain it with greater pleasure. When shall I see you again?

PLANESIUM
Why now, for that expression get ready the Prætor's rod; if you love me, purchase my freedom; don't make any haggling. Take care to prevail with your offer. Kindly adieu! *Goes into the house of the PROCURER.*

PHÆD.
And am I then left behind? Palinurus, I'm Lilled outright.

PALINURUS
And I as well, who am dying with thumps and sleepiness.

PHÆD.
Do you follow me. *They go into the house of PHÆDROMUS.*

ACT II.

Enter CAPPADOX, from the Temple of ÆSCULAPIUS.

CAPPADOX
to himself . I am resolved to depart from this Temple out of doors forthwith, since thus I find the determination of Æsculapius, who sets me at nought, and chooses not that I should be healed. My health is declining, my weakness increases. For now I walk, girded with my spleen as though with a belt; in my stomach do I seem to be holding a twin offspring. I'm afraid of nothing, but that, in my misery, I should burst asunder in the middle. *PHÆDROMUS.*

PALINURUS
speaking to PHÆDROMUS within as he enters . If you do right, Phædromus, you'll listen to me, and banish this sorrow from your feelings. You are anxious because your Parasite hasn't returned from Caria. I think he'll bring the money; but if he doesn't bring it, by a chain of iron he couldn't be withheld from betaking himself to eat at his manger.

CAPPADOX
turning round . What person is it that speaks?

PALINURUS
to himself . Whose voice is it that I hear?

CAPPADOX
Isn't this Palinurus, the servant of Phædromus?

PALINURUS
aside . Who is this fellow with extended paunch, and eyes as green as grass? From his figure I know him; from his complexion I cannot recognize him. O, now I do know him: it's the Procurer Cappadox. I'll accost him.

CAPPADOX

Save you, Palinurus.

PALINURUS
O source of villanies, save you; how are you?

CAPPADOX
I'm just alive.

PALINURUS
Just as you deserve, I suppose? But what's the matter with you?

CAPPADOX
My spleen is killing me, my reins are in torment, my lungs are being torn asunder, my liver is being tortured, my heart-strings are giving way, all my intestines are in pain.

PALINURUS
The liver complaint is afflicting you, then.

CAPPADOX
My spleen is expanded.

PALINURUS
Take walking exercise; that's the best thing for the spleen.

CAPPADOX
'Tis an easy matter to laugh at the afflicted.

PALINURUS
Well, then, do you hold out for some days until your intestines become putrid. Now, while the humours are pretty sound, if you do that, you yourself might sell for a worse price than those intestines of yours.

CAPPADOX
Prithee, have done with this, and answer me this which I ask; can you possibly form a conjecture on it, if I relate to you what I dreamt last night in my sleep?

PALINURUS
Psha, this — *pointing to himself* — this is the sole person that is really skilled in divination; why, the interpreters of dreams ask advice of myself; the answer that I have given them, by that opinion they all stand.

Enter a COOK, from the house of PHÆDROUMS.

COOK
Palinurus, why do you delay? Why are not the things served out for me which are needed for the breakfast to be prepared for the Parasite when he comes.

PAR.
Wait, please, until I interpret his dream. *Pointing to CAPPADOX.*

COOK
Why, you your own self, if you've had any dream, always apply to me.

PALINURUS
I confess it.

COOK
Be off, then, and serve out the things.

PALINURUS
to CAPPADOX . Come now, do you in the meantime relate your dream to him. I give you a substitute better than I am myself; for what I do know, all of it I know from him. *Pointing to the COOK.*

CAPPADOX
Let him give his attention then.

PALINURUS
He'll give it.

CAPPADOX

He does what few do, in being attentive to their masters even. *To the COOK.* Do you give me your attention then. *PALINURUS goes into the house of PHÆDROMUS.*

COOK
Although I don't know you, I'll give it you.

CAPPADOX
Last night I seemed in my sleep to behold Æsculapius, seated at a distance far away from me; and it seemed that he didn't come near me, or set any value upon me.

COOK
The other Gods will do the same, you must know; in fact, among themselves they agree with perfect unanimity. It isn't to be wondered at, if it fares no better with you. But it had been better for you to pass the night in Jove's Temple, who has given you his assistance in your oaths.

CAPPADOX
If, indeed, those should wish to sleep there who have been guilty of perjury, it were not possible for room to be found them in the Capitol.

COOK
Give your attention to this; ask peace of Æsculapius, lest perchance some great mishap befall you, which has been portended to you in your rest.

CAPPADOX
You do well in advising me; I'll go and pray to him. *Goes into the Temple.*

COOK
And ill speed you with it * * * * * * *Goes into the house of PHÆDROMUS. Enter PALINURUS, from the house.*

PALINURUS

looking in the distance, as he enters . O immortal Gods, whom do I behold? Who's that yonder? *Pointing.* Isn't that the Parasite, who was sent to Caria? *Goes to the door.* Hallo, come out, Phædromus, come out, come out, come out this instant, I say. *from the house.*

PHÆD.
Why are you making this noise here?

PALINURUS
] see your Parasite running; see, there he is *pointing* , down at the end of the street. Let's listen from here what he's about.

PHÆD.
I think it's as well. *They stand aside.*

Enter CURCULIO, at a distance, walking fast.

CURCULIO
to himself . Known or unknown, make way for me, while here I execute my commission; fly all of you, be off, and get out of the way, lest I should hurt any person in my speed with my head, or elbow, or breast, or with my knee. So suddenly now am I charged with a business of quickness and despatch. And be there no person ever so opulent to stop me in my way, neither general, nor any tyrant, nor market-officer, nor demarch nor comarch, with their honors so great, but that down he goes, and tumbles head first from the footpath into the carriage-road. And then those Grecians with their cloaks, who walk about with covered heads, who go loaded beneath their cloaks with books, and with baskets, they loiter together, and engage in gossipping among themselves, the gad-abouts; you may always see them enjoying themselves in the hot liquor-shops; when they have scraped up some trifle, with their covered pates they are drinking mulled wine, sad and maudlin they depart: if I stumble upon them here, from every single one of them I'll squeeze out a belch from their pearled-barley diet. And then those servants of your dainty townsmen, who are playing at catch-ball in the road, both throwers and catchers, all of them I'll pitch under foot. Would they avoid a

mishap, why then, let them keep at home.

PHÆD.
apart . He points out aright, he only requires that he should speak with authority; for such manners are in vogue in the present day, such at present are the slaves; really, control cannot be held over them.

CURCULIO
to himself . Is there any one, I wonder, who can point out to me Phædromus, my good Genius? The matter is of such pressing nature, I really must meet with the man this instant.

PALINURUS
apart . He's looking for you. PHÆD. *apart* . What if we accost him? *Aloud.* Hallo! Curculio, I want you.

CURCULIO
looking round . Who's calling me? Who's mentioning my name?

PHÆD.
One who wishes to meet with you.

CURCULIO
seeing him . You don't wish more for me than I wish for you.

PHÆD.
O my own ready occasion, Curculio, much longed-for, greetings to you.

CURCULIO
Greetings to you.

PHÆD.
I'm glad that you have arrived safe; give me your right hand. How stand my hopes? Troth now, prithee, do speak out.

CURCULIO

To you, troth now, prithee, do speak out, how stand my own. *Makes curious gestures.*

PHÆD.
What's the matter with you?

CURCULIO
A dimness is beginning to come, my knees are failing through fasting.

PHÆD.
I' faith, through lassitude, I think.

CURCULIO
staggering . Support me, prithee, do support me.

PHÆD.
See how pale he has turned; will you give him a seat, for him to be seated at once, and an ewer with some water? Will you make haste, this very instant?

CURCULIO
I'm faint.

PHÆD.
Would you like some water?

CURCULIO
If it's full of bits of meat, prithee, give it me to swallow down, i' faith.

PHÆD.
Woe be to that head of yours.

CURCULIO
Troth now, prithee do give me cause to rejoice at my arrival.

PHÆD.

begins to fan him . By all means.

CURCULIO
Prithee, what's this you're about.

PHÆD.
Some air.

CURCULIO
Really, for my part, I don't want a breath to be raised.

PHÆD.
What then?

CURCULIO
To eat, that I may rejoice on my arrival.

PHÆD.
May Jupiter and the Deities confound you.

CURCULIO
I'm quite undone; I can hardly see; my mouth is bitter; my teeth, I find, are blunted; my jaws are clammy through fasting; with my entrails thus lank with abstinence from food am I come.

PHÆD.
You shall eat something just now.

CURCULIO
I' faith, I don't want "something;" I'd rather have what's fixed for certain, than your "something."

PHÆD.
Aye, but if you only knew what has been put by for you.

CURCULIO
I'd very much like to know where it is; for really it's necessary for it and my teeth to make acquaintance.

PHÆD.
A gammon of bacon, a sow's stomach, some udder and kernels of the throat.

CURCULIO
What, all this do you say? Perhaps you mean that they are in the flesh-market?

PHÆD.
In the dishes, I mean; they've been got ready for you, since we knew that you were about to arrive.

CURCULIO
Take care you don't be fooling me.

PHÆD.
So may the fair one love me whom I love, I don't say what's false. But as to what I sent you upon I'm none the wiser yet.

CURCULIO
I've brought back nothing.

PHÆD.
You've undone me.

CURCULIO
I can find something, if you'll give me your attention. After, at your request, I had set out, I arrived in Caria; I saw your friend; I asked him to make me a loan of some money. In answer, you were to know that he was willing to oblige you; he didn't wish to disappoint you, as it is only proper that a person who is a friend should be ready, and should assist his friend. In a few words he answered me, and quite in confidence, that he also was in the same extreme want of money as yourself.

PHÆD.
By your words you ensure my undoing.

CURCULIO
Why no; I'm saving you, and wish you to be saved. After this answer was given me, I went away from him to the Forum, in sorrow that I had applied to him in vain. By accident I espied a military officer; this person I accosted, and as I approached I saluted him. "Save you," said he to me, took my right hand, drew me aside, and asked me why I had come to Caria. I said that I had come there for the sake of amusement. Upon this he asked me whether I knew a certain Lyco, a banker of Epidaurus. I said I knew him. "Well, and the Procurer Cappadox?" I answered yes, that I had seen him. "But what do you want of him?" said I. "Because," said he, "I bought of him a girl for thirty minæ, her clothes and golden jewels too; and for these last ten minæ more are added." "Have you paid the money?" said I. "No," said he; "it is lodged with this Lyco the banker, whom I was mentioning, and I've instructed him that the person who should bring a letter sealed with my own ring, to him he was to give his services, that he might receive the damsel, with her jewels of gold and her clothes, from the Procurer." After he told me this, I was going away from him. At once he called me back, invited me to dinner; it was a point of conscience, I was unwilling to refuse him. "What if we go off home, and take our places at table?" said he. The suggestion pleased me; it is neither proper to lengthen out the day, nor to curtail the night. Everything was prepared, and we, for whom it was prepared, were at our places. After we had dined and well drunk, he asked for the dice to be fetched him. He challenged me to play with him a game of hazard. I staked my cloak, he staked his ring against it; he called on the name of Planesium.

PHÆD.
What, my mistress?

CURCULIO
Be silent a while. He threw a most losing cast. I took up the dice, and invoked Hercules as my genial patron; I threw a first-rate cast, and pledged him in a bumping cup; in return he drank it off, reclined his head, and fell fast asleep. I slily took away from him the ring, and took my legs quietly from off the couch, so that the Captain mightn't

perceive it. The servants enquired whither I was going; I said that I was going whither persons when full are wont to go. When I beheld the door, at once on the instant I betook myself away from the place.

PHÆD.
I commend you.

CURCULIO
Commend me when I've brought this thing about which you desire. Now let's go indoors, that we may seal the letter.

PHÆD.
Do I delay you?

CURCULIO
But let's cram down something first, the gammon, the udder, and the kernels; these are the foundations for the stomach, with bread and roast beef, a good-sized cup and a capacious pot, that counsel enough may be forthcoming. Do you, yourself, seal the letter; he'll do the honors *pointing to PALINURUS* while I am eating. I'll dictate after what fashion you're to write. Follow me this way, in-doors.

PHÆD.
I follow. *They go into the house of PHÆDROMUS.*

ACT III.

Enter LYCO.

LYCO
I seem to be in opulence; I've struck my balance, how much money I have, and how much I owe. I'm rich, if I don't pay those to whom I'm in debt. If I do pay those to whom I'm in debt, my debts are the greatest. But really, upon my faith, when I carefully consider, if they press me hard, I'll resort to the Prætor. Most bankers have this habit, for one to borrow of the other, and to pay nobody, and to discharge the debt with their fists, if any one duns in a loudish tone. The person that has in a short time acquired wealth, unless in good time he saves it, in good time comes to starvation. I'd like to buy a servant for myself, who now, however, must be sought by me on hire: there's occasion for my ready money. *within.*

CURCULIO
Don't you be reminding me now I'm full; I recollect and understand. I'll render up to you all this cleverly carried out; do hold your peace. I' faith, I've surely filled myself in-doors right well, and still in my stomach I've left room for one corner, in which to stow away the remnants of these remnants. *Seeing LYCO.* Who's this that with covered head is saluting Æsculapius? Heyday, the very man I wanted. *To an ATTENDANT.* Follow me. I'll make pretence as though I didn't know him. *Aloud.* Hark you; I want you.

LYCO
turning round . One-eyed man, save you.

CURCULIO
Prithee, do you jeer me?

LYCO
I suppose that you are of the family of the Coclites; for they are one-eyed.

CURCULIO
This was knocked out for me by a catapulta, at Sicyon.

LYCO
What matters it to me, pray, if it had been knocked out by a broken pot with cinders in it?

CURCULIO
aside. This fellow's a wizard, surely; he tells the truth, for such catapultas are often directed at me. *Aloud.* Young man, as I bear this mark on my face in the service of the public, prithee don't be uncivil to me.

LYCO
May I then inforize you, if I may not incomitiatize?

CURCULIO
You shan't be inforizing me, indeed; and really I don't care at all about your Forum or your Comitia. But if you can point me out this person that I'm seeking, you will be doing me a real and a great service. I'm looking for Lyco the banker.

LYCO
Tell me why you are now seeking for him, or, of what country are you?

CURCULIO
I'll tell you: I'm come from Therapontigonus Platagidorus, the Captain.

LYCO
I' faith, I know the name: *aside* for with that same name, when I wrote, I filled four whole sides. *To CURCULIO.* But why are you seeking for Lyco?

CURCULIO
showing the letter . I've been ordered to deliver this letter to him.
LYC. What person are you?

CURCULIO
His freed-man, whom all call Summanus.

LYCO
Summanus, my greetings. But why Summanus? Let me know.

CURCULIO
Because, when in my drunken fit I've gone to sleep, I "summane" the garments; for that reason do all people call me Summanus.

LYCO
'Twere better for you to look out for entertainment for you somewhere else; really in my own house I have no room for a Summanus. But I am the person that you are looking for.

CURCULIO
Prithee, are you he, Lyco the banker?

LYCO
I am.

CURCULIO
Therapontigonus requested me to give you a hearty greeting, and to deliver this letter.

LYCO
What, to me?

CURCULIO
Just so. Take it, recognize the seal. Do you know it? *LYCO takes the letter.*

LYCO
Why should I not know it? On which, a man, holding a shield, is cleaving an elephant asunder with a sword.

CURCULIO
What's written there he bade me request you to do immediately, if

you wished for his esteem.

LYCO
Step aside; I'll look what's written in it.

CURCULIO
stepping aside . By all means, at your pleasure, so long as I receive of you that which I'm come for.

LYCO
reads . "Therapontigonus Platagidorus, the Captain, his guest, sends to his host Lyco, at Epidaurus, right hearty greeting."

CURCULIO
aside . This fellow's my own; he's swallowing the hook.

LYCO
going on . "I beg and request of you that, the person who delivers this letter to you, to him be given up the girl whom I purchased there (which I did there in your presence, and you being the negotiator), and the golden trinkets and clothes as well. You know already how it was agreed upon. You give the money to the Procurer, and give the young woman to this person." *To CURCULIO.* Where is he himself? Why doesn't he come?

CURCULIO
I'll tell you; because it is but four days since we arrived in Caria, from India; there he now intends to order a solid golden statue to be made of Philippean gold, which is to be seven feet high — a memorial of his exploits.

LYCO
For what reason this?

CURCULIO
I'll tell you; why, because within twenty days he singly has subdued the Persians, Paphlagonians, Sinopians, Arabians, Cretans, Syrians, Rhodia and Lycia, Peredia and Bibesia, Centauromachia and Classia

Unomammia, and all Libya, and all Conterebromia; one half even of all nations has he conquered unaided in twenty days.

LYCO
Dear me!

CURCULIO
Why are you surprised?

LYCO
Why, because if all these people were penned up in a cage as close as chickens, even so they couldn't be encompassed in a year. Upon my faith, 1 do believe that you are come from him; for you do jabber such nonsense.

CURCULIO
Aye, and I can tell you still more, if you like.

LYCO
No; I don't want it. Follow me this way. I'll pay you that, on account of which you came; and lo, 1 see * * * * * * * * * *from his house.*

LYCO
Save you, Procurer.

CAPPADOX
May the Gods prosper you.

LYCO
Do you know what this is about which I'm come to you?

CAPPADOX
Say on what you please.

LYCO
You are to receive the money, and to send away the young woman with him. *Pointing to CURCULIO.*

CAPPADOX
But what if I'm bound on oath to another?

LYCO
What matters that to you, so long as you get the money?

CAPPADOX
He who advises is as good as an accomplice. Do you follow.

CURCULIO
Procurer, take care that you don't cause me any delay. *They go into the house of CAPPADOX.*

ACT IV.

Enter the CHOREGUS , as CHORUS.

THE CHOREGUS
By my faith, Phædromus has cleverly met with this clever rogue; but whether a salt-water rogue or a dry-land one I'm the rather to say he is, I really don't know. The costume that I've lent I fear I shan't get back. Although I have nothing whatever to do with him (I trusted Phædromus himself), still I'll keep an eye upon him. But until he comes out of doors, I'll point out in what place you may easily meet with each person, that he mayn't lose his labour through too much trouble, if any one wishes to meet either a rascal or one without rascality, or an honest man or a dishonest one. He who desires to meet with a perjured fellow, let him go into the courts of law; he who wants a liar and a braggart, near the rites of Cloacina. The rich and erring husbands seek you at the magisterial halls of the Basilica. There, too, will be the worn-out harlots, and those who are wont to haggle for them. Contributors to pic-nic dinners you'll find in the fishmarket. In the lower part of the Forum good men and opulent do walk; in the middle, near the canal, there are the mere puffers-off. Beyond the lake of Curtius are impudent, talkative, and malevolent fellows, who boldly, without reason, utter calumnies about another, and who, themselves, have sufficient that might with truth be said against them. There, at the old shops, are these who lend and those who borrow at interest. Behind the Temple of Castor there are those to whom unguardedly you may be lending to your cost. There, in the Etrurian street, are those men who hold themselves on sale. In the Velabrum you'll find either baker, or butcher, or soothsayer; either those who sell retail themselves, or supply to others things to be sold by retail. Rich sinning husbands you'll find at the house of Oppian Leucadia. But, meantime, the door makes a noise; I must curb my tongue. *(Exit.)*

Enter, from the house of CAPPADOX, CURCULIO, leading PLANESIUM, followed by LYCO and CAPPADOX.

CURCULIO
Maiden, do you go before; what is behind me I cannot keep my eye upon. Both the trinkets of gold, and all the clothing that she had, were his own, he said.

CAPPADOX
No one is going to deny it.

CURCULIO
Still, however, it's somewhat better for me to remind you.

LYCO
Remember that you've undertaken, that, if any one should assert in course of law that she's properly free, all the money is to be returned to me-thirty minæ.

CAPPADOX
I shall remember; be easy about that; and now I say the same.

CURCULIO
But I wish you to remember this well.

CAPPADOX
I remember, and I shall deliver her to you on warranty.

CURCULIO
And am I to take anything on warranty from a Procurer, people who have nothing of their own except a tongue only; who, if anything's entrusted them, deny it upon oath? You Procurers dispose of what belongs to others, you give liberty to what belongs to others, and what belongs to others your give your commands to; no guarantee of ownership is there in the transfer to yourselves, nor are you yourselves guarantees to another person. The race of Procurers, among mortals, in my way of thinking at least, are just like flies, gnats, bugs, lice, and fleas — a plague, a mischief, and a nuisance; you are of no serviceable use, and no respectable person dares to stand with you in the Forum; he that does associate with you, they censure him, he's spat upon and abused; they say that he has lost his

property and his honor, although he has done nothing at all.

LYCO
Upon my faith, my clever one-eyed friend, in my way of thinking, you are well acquainted with the Procurers.

CURCULIO
You bankers, i' faith, I put and place in the same rank; you are the very counterparts of them. They, at least, are on sale in dark corners, you in the very Forum. You tear men to pieces with usury, they by persuading them amiss and by means of their dens. Full many a proposed statute has the public confirmed on your account, which when confirmed you break; some loophole you find out; just as boiling water becomes cold, so do you deem the laws.

LYCO
aside . I'd rather I'd held my tongue CAP. Not wrongfully, and with good reason, are you abusive against them.

CURCULIO
If abuse is uttered against those who deserve it not, that I do hold to be abuse; but if it is uttered against those who are deserving, it is fair censure, in my way of thinking, at least. I care nothing about your warranty, nor about any other Procurer whatever. Lyco, do you want anything with me?

LYCO
Heartily fare you well.

CURCULIO
Farewell. *Going.*

CAPPADOX
Hark you! I say to you ——

CURCULIO
Say on; what do you want?

CAPPADOX
Prithee do you take care that all's well with her *pointing to PLANESIUM* ; I've brought her up in my house carefully and in chastity.

CURCULIO
If you have such compassion for her, pray, what would you give for it to be all well with her?

CAPPADOX
A plaguy mishap for yourself.

CURCULIO
You need take due care on that score about yourself.

CAPPADOX
to PLANESIUM, who is weeping . Why, simpleton, do you cry? Don't be afraid; upon my faith, I've sold you favourably. Take care, will you, and be a good girl; now prettily accompany him, pretty one.

LYCO
Summanus, do you want anything with me at present?

CURCULIO
Fare you well, and health attend you. *Aside.* For you've kindly given me your services and your money.

LYCO
Give abundant greetings to my patron.

CURCULIO
I'll give them. *(Exit with PLANESIUM.)*

LYCO
Procurer, do you wish for anything?

CAPPADOX
Give me those ten minæ for me to manage for myself with, until

things are better with me.

LYCO
They shall be paid; order them to be fetched to-morrow. *(Exit.)*

CAPPADOX
Since I've successfully finished the matter, I wish to return thanks here in the Temple. For long since, when a little girl, I bought her for ten minæ; but him who sold her to me, never since then have I set eyes upon. I think he's dead. What matters that to me? I've got the money. The man to whom the Gods are propitious, for him, no doubt, they throw gain in his way. Now will I give my attention to my devotions; it's clear that he has a kind regard for me. *Goes into the Temple.*

Enter THERAPONTIGONUS. and LYCO.

THERAPONTIGONUS
I'm come now, inflamed with wrath in no moderate degree, but with that same with which I've learned to deal destruction upon cities. At once now, unless this moment you make haste instantly to pay me the thirty minæ which I left with you, make haste to lay down your life.

LYCO
By my troth, to no little mischief do I now devote you, but to that same to which I am wont to devote that man to whom I owe nothing at all.

THERAPONTIGONUS
Don't you be making yourself bold with me, or suppose that I shall be entreating you.

LYCO
And you, indeed, shall never force me to pay you what has been paid, nor shall I give it you.

THERAPONTIGONUS

I thought this, when I entrusted you with it, that you would repay nothing at all.

LYCO
Why then are you now asking it back of me?

THERAPONTIGONUS
I wish to know to whom you have paid it.

LYCO
To your one-eyed freed-man; he said that he was called Summanus; I paid it to him, who brought me this sealed letter. *Gives him the letter.*

THERAPONTIGONUS
What letter of mine, what one-eyed freed-man, what people called Summanus are you dreaming about? I really have no freed-man at all.

LYCO
You act more wisely than a portion of the military men who have freed-men, and then forsake them.

THERAPONTIGONUS
What have you done?

LYCO
What you requested me, I've done for your sake, that I mightn't slight the messenger who had brought your seal's impression.

THERAPONTIGONUS
More fool than fool were you to give credit to this letter.

LYCO
To that by which matters both public and private are carried on ought I not to have given credit? I'll be off; the money has been properly paid you. Warrior, farewell.

THERAPONTIGONUS

How — farewell?

LYCO
Fare you ill then, if you choose, — aye, all your life, so far as I'm concerned. *(Exit.)*

THERAPONTIGONUS
What shall I do now? Of what use is it that I have caused kings to obey me, if this obscure fellow is this day to laugh at me?

Enter CAPPADOX, from the Temple.

CAPPADOX
to himself . The man to whom the Gods are propitious, they cannot, I think, be angered with him. After I ad finished my devotions, it then came into my mind, lest the banker should abscond, to go fetch the money, that I may make good cheer rather than he.

THERAPONTIGONUS
I had left my compliments for you at your house.

CAPPADOX
Therapontigonus Platagidorus, save you; since you are come safe to Epidaurus this day, at my house — you won't lick up one grain of salt.

THERAPONTIGONUS
You give me a kind invitation; things, however, are in a train for it to go badly with yourself. But how fares my purchase at your house?

CAPPADOX
Why, not at my house at all. Don't be bringing your witnesses — assuredly, I don't owe you anything.

THERAPONTIGONUS
How's that?

CAPPADOX

What I was bound on oath to do, I've done.

THERAPONTIGONUS
Will you give me up the girl or not, before I spit you with this sabre of mine, you whip-scoundrel?

CAPPADOX
I bid you go to perdition with all my heart; don't you be terrifying me. She has been carried off; you shall e carried off hence away from me, beyond a doubt, if you persist in abusing me, to whom I owe nothing but a punishing.

THERAPONTIGONUS
What, threaten me with a punishing?

CAPPADOX
Aye, and by my troth, I'll not be threatening, but I'll give it, if you persist in being impertinent to me.

THERAPONTIGONUS
A Procurer, forsooth, threatening me; and are my combats in battle, so many in number, lying trodden under foot? But so may my sabre and my shield * * * * * trustily aid me when fighting in the field; unless the girl is restored to me, I'll at once cause the ants to carry you away piecemeal from this spot.

CAPPADOX
And so may my tweezers, my comb, my looking-glass, my crisping-iron, and my hair-scissors and scrubbing-towel love me well, I don't value your high-sounding words, nor these big threats of yours, a bit the more than my servant-girl that washes out my sink. I've given her up to him who brought the money from you.

THERAPONTIGONUS
What person was that?

CAPPADOX
He said that he was Summanus, your freed-man.

THERAPONTIGONUS
Mine? You don’t say so; i’ faith, it’s that Curculio that has put a trick upon me, when I think upon it; he stole my ring from me.

CAPPADOX
aside . The Captain has been finely appointed to a cashiered company.

THERAPONTIGONUS
Where now shall I find Curculio?

CAPPADOX
In some wheat with the greatest ease I’ll make you find even five hundred Curculios instead of one. Therefore I’m off; fare you well, and my service to you. *(Exit.)*

THERAPONTIGONUS
Fare you ill, a plague attend you. What shall I do? Shall I stop or go away? That I should have been imposed upon in this way! I’d like to give a reward to him who would point out that fellow to me. *(Exit.)*

ACT V.

Enter CURCULIO, with a ring, from the house of PHÆDROMUS.

CURCULIO
I've heard that an ancient Poet wrote in a Tragedy, that two women are worse than one; such is the fact. But a more crafty woman than is this mistress of Phædromus, I never saw or heard of, nor, i' faith, can one be spoken of or imagined; she, as soon as ever she saw that I had got this ring, asked me whence I got it. "Why do you ask that?" said I. "Because I've need to know," said she. I said I wouldn't tell her. To get it away, she seized hold of my hand with her teeth. With much ado I betook me out of doors, and made my escape. Away with this slut.

Enter PLANESIUM, followed by PHÆDROMUS, from his house.

PLANESIUM
My Phædromus, make haste.

PHÆD.
Make haste for what?

PLANESIUM
That you mayn't let the Parasite escape; the affair's of consequence.

PHÆD.
Nothing have I of consequence; for what I did have I quickly made away with? *Seizes CURCULIO.* I've got him; what's the matter?

PLANESIUM
Ask him whence he got that ring: my father used to wear it.

CURCULIO
Why, troth, and so did my aunt.

PLANESIUM

My mother gave it him to wear.

CURCULIO
And your father, in his turn, to me.

PLANESIUM
You are talking nonsense.

CURCULIO
I'm in the habit; for by reason of it I make a livelihood the more easily. What is the matter now?

PLANESIUM
I entreat you, don't be keeping me from finding my parents.

CURCULIO
How can I? Have I got your father and mother hidden beneath the stone? *Holding up the ring.*

PLANESIUM
I was born a free woman.

CURCULIO
And so were many others, who are now in servitude.

PLANESIUM
Really now, I'm vexed.

CURCULIO
For my part, I've told you how this came into my possession. How often must you be told? I cheated the Captain at dice, I tell you. *THERAPONTIGONUS.*

THERAPONTIGONUS
eyeing CURCULIO . I'm all right; see, here he is whom I was looking for. How do you do, good sir?

CURCULIO

I hear you; three casts of the dice, if you like, even for that scarf of yours.

THERAPONTIGONUS
Why don't you go to very perdition, with your casts and catch-pennies? Either give me back the money or the young woman?

CURCULIO
with an air of surprise . What money? what rubbish are you talking about to me? What young woman are you demanding back of me?
THER. The one that you took away this day from the Procurer, you scoundrelly fellow.

CURCULIO
I took none away.

THERAPONTIGONUS
Why, surely, I see her. There she is. *Pointing to PLANESIUM.*

PHÆD.
This young woman is free.

THERAPONTIGONUS
What, my female slave free, to whom I have never given her liberty?

PHÆD.
Who gave you possession of her, or of whom did you buy her? Let me know that?

THERAPONTIGONUS
Why, I paid the money for her through my banker — a sum which I'll have refunded to me fourfold by you and the Procurer.

PHÆD.
You, who understand how to traffic in young women, kidnapped and of free birth, come you before the judge.

THERAPONTIGONUS

I shan't come.

PHÆD.
I may call my witness to the summons.

THERAPONTIGONUS
No, you mayn't.

PHÆD.
May Jupiter then utterly confound you: live without witnesses then.

CURCULIO
But I'm a person that he may summon.

PHÆD.
to CURCULIO . Do you step this way.

THERAPONTIGONUS
What? A slave summoned as a witness? Take you care.

CURCULIO
Well, that you may know it, I'm free.

THERAPONTIGONUS
Then come before the judge. There's for you: take that. *Gives him a blow.*

CURCULIO
O townsmen, townsmen, help.

THERAPONTIGONUS
Why do you bawl so?

PHÆD.
What right have you to strike him?

THERAPONTIGONUS
Because I choose.

PHÆD.
to CURCULIO . Step this way you *pushes him towards the CAPTAIN* ; there, I'll give him up to you. Hold your noise.

CURCULIO
Phædromus, prithee do save me.

PHÆD.
As I would myself and my own good Genius. Captain, prithee, do tell me whence you got that ring, which this Parasite purloined from you.

PLANESIUM
kneeling before the CAPTAIN . By your knees, I do entreat you to give us that information.

THERAPONTIGONUS
What matters that to you? You might as well ask after this sabre and this scarf, how each came into my possession.

CURCULIO
What airs the swaggerer does give himself!

THERAPONTIGONUS
Send that fellow away *pointing to CURCULIO* ; then I'll tell you all.

CURCULIO
It's nonsense what he says.

PHÆD.
Prithee, do let me know.

THERAPONTIGONUS
I'll tell you: *to PLANESIUM* get up. Listen to this matter, and give attention. My father Periphanes used to wear it.

PLANESIUM
Ha! Periphanes?

THERAPONTIGONUS
He, before he died, gave it to me as being his son, as it was right he should.

PLANESIUM
O Jupiter!

THERAPONTIGONUS
And on that occasion he made me his heir.

PLANESIUM
O filial affection, do thou preserve me, since I have carefully preserved thee. Welcome, my brother.

THERAPONTIGONUS
How am I to believe that? Tell me, if you are speaking the truth, who was your mother?

PLANESIUM
Cleobula.

THERAPONTIGONUS
Who was your nurse?

PLANESIUM
Archestrata. Amid the sacred rites of Bacchus she had carried me to see the sights * * * * * * * after we had come thither, when now she had found me a place, a whirlwind arose; the scaffolding of the stage there tumbled down; I was greatly alarmed, and then some one, I know not who, seized hold of me trembling and frightened, neither alive nor dead; and in what manner he carried me off I cannot say.

THERAPONTIGONUS
I recollect that disturbance happening; but, do you tell me, where is this person, who carried you away?

PLANESIUM
I know not; but *showing a ring* this ring I have all along preserved by

me, with it long since was I lost.

THERAPONTIGONUS
Give it me to look at.

CURCULIO
to PLANESIUM . Are you in your senses to be trusting it to that fellow? *Holds her arm.*

PLANESIUM
Do you only leave me alone. *(She gives it to the CAPTAIN.)*

THERAPONTIGONUS
examining it . O Jupiter! This is the same that I presented you upon your birthday; I recognize it as easily as my own self. Welcome to you, my sister.

PLANESIUM
My brother, welcome to you.

PHÆD.
I trust the Gods will prosper this matter for you.

CURCULIO
And I, for all of us. *To the CAPTAIN.* Do you, as having this day arrived, give a dinner in honor of your sister he *pointing to PHÆDROMUS* , to-morrow, will give one in honor of his marriage; we promise that.

PIÆD.
to CURCULIO . Do you hold your tongue.

CURCULIO
I shan't hold my tongue, as things are turning out so well. Captain, do you promise her to him; I'll give the marriage-portion.

THERAPONTIGONUS
What is the marriage-portion?

CURCULIO
What, that I give? Why, that always as long as he lives he's to feed me.

THERAPONTIGONUS
I' troth, he says what's fair; with my consent you shall do so. But this Procurer owes me the thirty minæ.

PHÆD.
For what reason so?

THERAPONTIGONUS
Because he agreed with me on these terms to give it back: that if any one should assert her to be free born in due course of law, he would, without dispute, pay back all the money.

CURCULIO
Then let's go to the Procurer.

THERAPONTIGONUS
I agree.

PHÆD.
This first I wish; to despatch my matter.

THERAPONTIGONUS
What's that?

PHÆD.
That you will betroth her to me. *The CAPTAIN considers.*

CURCULIO
Why do you hesitate, Captain, to give her as a wife to him?

THERAPONTIGONUS
If she is agreable.

PLANESIUM

My brother, it is my wish.

THERAPONTIGONUS
So be it then.

CURCULIO
You do rightly.

PHÆD.
Captain, do you betroth me to her for my wife?

THERAPONTIGONUS
I do betroth her.

PHÆD.
pointing to CURCULIO . And to him do I promise support at my expense.

CURCULIO
You do kindly. But * * * * * * * *

THER,

* * * * * But see, here's the Procurer coming; my treasurer, I mean.

Enter CAPPADOX, in haste.

CAPPADOX
to himself . Those who say it's bad for bankers to be trusted, utter nonsense; I say it's neither good nor bad for them to be trusted, and that, I've fully experienced this day. They are not badly trusted, who never repay, but with whom it is lost outright. As for example, before this Lyco paid me the ten minæ, he had to go to every banker's counter. After there were no proceeds, I summoned the fellow with much noise; he appealed against me to the court. I was most confoundedly afraid that this day he'd be settling accounts with me before the Prætor; but my friends forced him, so he paid the money at home. Now I'm resolved to make haste to my house. *Runs towards*

his door.

THERAPONTIGONUS
Hallo! you Procurer; I want you.

PHÆD.
And I want you.

CAPPADOX
But I don't want either of you.

THERAPONTIGONUS
Stay this instant, will you.

PHÆD.
And make you haste to disgorge the money with all despatch.

CAPPADOX
to PHÆDROMUS . What have you to do with me? *To the CAPTAIN.* Or what have you?

THERAPONTIGONUS
Because this day I shall be making a javelin of you, discharged from a catapulta, and twist you with the string, just as the catapultas are in the habit of doing.

PHÆD.
I'll this day make a coxcomb of you, to be sleeping with a puppy in your bed — an iron one, I mean.

CAPPADOX
But I'll make you both to be rotting in a strong-barred prison.

THERAPONTIGONUS
Seize him by the throat, and away with him to extreme torture.

PHÆD.
However that is, he'll be going there of his own accord. *The*

CAPTAIN seizes him.

CAPPADOX
O Gods and men, your aid! that I, uncondemned, and without evidence against me, should thus be dragged along! Prithee, Planesium, and you, Phædromus, do give me assistance.

PLANESIUM
Brother, I do beseech you, don't ruin him uncondemned; he treated me kindly and modestly at his house.

THERAPONTIGONUS
That was through no inclination of his own; give you thanks to this Æsculapius *pointing to the Temple* that you've preserved your chastity; for if he had been well, he'd long ago have packed you off wherever he could.

PHÆD.
Now attend to me, both of you, if I can arrange between you. *To the CAPTAIN.* You let him go. Procurer, come you this way. I'll pronounce my opinion, if indeed you are ready to abide by what I shall decide you should do.

THERAPONTIGONUS
We leaves it to you. *He lets go of the PROCURER.*

CAPPADOX
So long, i' faith, as you give a decision to the effect that no one is to take the money away from me.

THERAPONTIGONUS
What, not that which you promised?

CAPPADOX
I, promised? How?

THERAPONTIGONUS
With your tongue.

CAPPADOX
With that same tongue I now gainsay it; that was given me by Nature for the purpose of speaking, not of losing my property.

THERAPONTIGONUS
He's trifling; seize the fellow by the throat. *Seizes him.* CAP. I'll at once then do as you bid me.

THERAPONTIGONUS
Since you are an honest man, answer me this that I ask you.

CAPPADOX
Ask me what you please.

THERAPONTIGONUS
Did you not promise, that if any one should show that she *pointing to PLANESIUM* was freeborn, you would pay back all the money?

CAPPADOX
I don't remember saying so.

THERAPONTIGONUS
What, do you deny it?

CAPPADOX
I' faith, I really do deny it. In whose presence? In what place was it?

THERAPONTIGONUS
In my own presence, and that of Lyco the banker.

CAPPADOX
Why don't you hold your tongue?

THERAPONTIGONUS
I shan't hold my tongue.

CAPPADOX
I don't care a rush for you; don't be bullying me.

THERAPONTIGONUS
In my own presence and that of Lyco it took place.

PHÆD.
to the CAPTAIN . I quite believe you. Now, therefore, Procurer, that you may know my judgment, *pointing to PLANESIUM* she is a free woman; he *pointing to the CAPTAIN* is her brother, and she is his sister; she is engaged to me; do you restore him the money; that's my decision.

CAPPADOX
Upon my faith, Phædromus, you have given this decision corruptly. It shall both be bad for you, and you, Captain, — may the Gods and Goddesses confound you.

THERAPONTIGONUS
And as for you, you shall be clapt in prison at once, unless the money's returned me.

CAPPADOX
Then follow me.

THERAPONTIGONUS
Follow you where?

CAPPADOX
To my banker — to the Prætor; for it's there that I pay my money to all persons to whom I'm indebted.

THERAPONTIGONUS
I'll be carrying you hence to prison, and not to the Prætor, if you don't pay back the money.

CAPPADOX
I do most earnestly wish you may come to a bad end, so don't misunderstand me.

THERAPONTIGONUS

Do you really so?

CAPPADOX
I' faith, I really do so.

THERAPONTIGONUS
I don't misunderstand these fists of mine. *Holding them up.*

CAPPADOX
What then?

THERAPONTIGONUS
What then, do you ask? With these same fists, if you provoke me, I'll be making you quiet immediately.

CAPPADOX
taking the money from his girdle . Well then, take this back at once.

THERAPONTIGONUS
taking the money . By all means.

PHÆD.
Captain, you'll dine with me; the nuptials shall take place to-day.

THERAPONTIGONUS
May this matter turn out well for me and for yourselves.

An ACTOR.
Spectators, give us your applause.

EPIDICUS

Translated by Henry Thomas Riley

Epidicus is said to be one of Plautus' most popular works. It concerns the eponymous slave, who works hard to please his master's son, Stratippocles. The main plot was based on a Greek play, though the story line was changed in order to prevent a brother from marrying his half-sister. This change was made as Romans considered this incest, unlike the Greeks.

In the plot, Epidicus tricks his master, Periphanes, out of a sum of money in order to purchase a female slave, Acropolistis, who the master's son, Stratippocles, has fallen in love with. Epidicus does this by convincing Periphanes that this girl is his daughter from Philippa, whom he hasn't seen in many years, and has been captured in Thebes and brought to Athens. Believing this young woman is his daughter, Periphanes willingly hands over the money. Stratippocles soon goes off to war and falls in love with a different woman while away. To purchase this new woman, Stratippocles borrows money from a banker. When Stratippocles returns home, he vows not to meet with his father until the debt is paid back to the banker.

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THE SUBJECT.

The plot of this Play is of an involved nature. Periphanes, an aged Athenian, has a son, born in wedlock, named Stratippocles. By Philippa, a woman of Epidaurus, whom he has formerly seduced, he has had a daughter, named Telestis who has been residing with her mother at Thebes. A war arising between the Athenians and Thebans, Stratippocles, on setting out for the army, commissions Epidicus, his father's servant, to purchase for him Acropolistis, a music-girl, of whom lie is enamoured. Epidicns, on this, persuades Periphanes that this girl is really his daughter by Philippa, whom he has not seen for many years, and that she has been taken captive at Thebes, and brought to Athens. On this the old man gives Epidicus the requisite sum, and she is brought home and introduced to him as his daughter Telestis. In the meantime, Stratippocles meets with another damsel who has been taken captive, and agrees with a Banker to borrow forty mince, for the purpose of purchasing her. He returns to Athens, and resolves not to meet his father until he has paid the money to the Banker and gained possession of the damsel, and Epidicus is threatened by him with a severe punishment, if he does not manage to raise the sum required. On this he accosts his aged master, and tells him that he must find a wife for his son, who is about to purchase a singing-girl of the name of Acropolistis. The old man is persuaded to give a sum of money to Epidicus for the purpose of buying Acropolistis, that she may be kept out of the way of his son. On receiving the money, Epidicus hands it over to Stratippocles, to be paid to the Banker. The old gentleman having that morning ordered a singing-girl to be hired to perform at a sacrifice at his house, she is brought to him as Acropolistis, having been instructed how to play her part. A Captain, who admires Acropolistis, having heard that Periphanes has purchased her, applies to him, and offers to give him a profit of ten minæ if he will transfer her to him. Periphanes, thereupon, brings to him the music-girl who is assuming that character (while the real Acropolistis is taken for his daughter), on which the Captain discovers the deception, and Periphanes finds out that the girl is already free, and has been only brought to his

house to perform at the sacrifice. At this conjuncture Philippa arrives, having heard that her daughter has been brought to Athens. Periphanes meets her, and assures her that her daughter is safe at his house. On this, Philippa is introduced to Acropolistis, and declares that she is not her daughter, and that Periphanes has been imposed upon. On being questioned,Acropolistis confesses that she has only called Periphanes her father because lie has called her his daughter. Epidicus, on being discovered to be guilty of this second fraud upon his master, is greatly alarmed; but just then he perceives the Banker, who has come for the money, leading the Theban captive. He immediately recognizes her as Telestis, the real daughter of Periphanes and Philippa, Stratippocles, somewhat to his sorrow, is informed that the captive is his half-sister, and therefore, most probably, consoles himself with Acropolistis. For making this discovery, Epidicus is not only pardoned by Periphanes, but receives his freedom.

THE ACROSTIC ARGUMENT.

[Supposed to have been written by Priscian the Grammarian.]

An old gentleman, thinking her his daughter, purchases (Emit) a music-girl, by the advice (Persuasu) of his servant, who, a second time (Iterum), substitutes for him, in place of his son's mistress, another one hired; he gives (Dat) to his master's son the money; with it the young man, not knowing it (Imprudens), purchases his sister. Soon afterwards, by the aid of a woman whom he has seduced, and of a Captain, the old man understands (Cognoscit) that he has been imposed upon, as (Ut) the one is in search of his mistress, the other of her daughter. But (Sed) on finding his daughter, he gives his servant his liberty.

ACT I.

Enter THESPRIO, followed by EPIDICUS.

EPIDICUS
pulling THESPRIO by the cloak . Harkye! young man.

THESPRIO
Who pulls me by the cloak, when thus in haste?

EPIDICUS
An intimate.

THESPRIO
I confess it; for with your annoyance you are too intimate.

EPIDICUS
But do look back, Thesprio!

THESPRIO
looking round . What? Is it Epidicus that I see?

EPIDICUS
Why surely you've the use of your eyes.

THESPRIO
Greetings to you.

EPIDICUS
May the Gods grant what you desire. I'm glad that you've got here safe.

THESPRIO
What besides?

EPIDICUS
According to the usage, a dinner shall be given you.

THESPRIO
I agree.

EPIDICUS
What to do?

THESPRIO
That I'll accept it, if you offer it.

EPIDICUS
How are you? Fare you as you could wish?

THESPRIO
The proof's before you.

EPIDICUS
I understand. *Eyeing him from top to toe.* Marvellous! You seem quite plump and hearty.

THESPRIO
pointing to his left hand . Thanks to this.

EPIDICUS
Which, indeed, you ought to have parted with long ago.

THESPRIO
I'm less of a pilferer now than formerly.

EPIDICUS
How so?

THESPRIO
I rob above-board.

EPIDICUS
May the immortal Gods confound you, with what huge strides you do walk! for when I caught sight of you at the harbour, I began to run at a rapid pace; I was hardly able to overtake you just now.

THESPRIO
You are a town wit.

EPIDICUS
I know that you, on the other hand, are a military gentleman.

THESPRIO
Speak out as boldly as you please.

EPIDICUS
How say you? Have you been well all along?

THESPRIO
In a varied way.

EPIDICUS
Those who are well in a varied way, a race of men of the goat kind or of the panther kind, don't please me.

THESPRIO
What do you wish me to tell you but that which is fact?

EPIDICUS
To answer to these things fairly; how's our master's son? Is he well?

THESPRIO
Stout as a boxer and an athlete.

EPIDICUS
You've brought me joyous tidings on your arrival. But where is he?

THESPRIO
I came here together with him.

EPIDICUS
Where is he then? Unless, perchance, you've brought him in your wallet, or, perhaps, in your knapsack.

THESPRIO

May the Gods confound you!

EPIDICUS
I want to make enquiries of you. Lend me your attention; attention shall be lent you in return.

THESPRIO
You say what's law.

EPIDICUS
It becomes me to do so.

THESPRIO
But why now are you acting the Prætor over us?

EPIDICUS
What other person in Athens will you say is more deserving of it than I?

THESPRIO
But still, Epidicus, one thing is wanting for your Prætorship.

EPIDICUS
What, pray?

THESPRIO
You shall know; two lictors two osier bundles of twigs ——

EPIDICUS
shaking his fist at him . Woe unto you! But how say you —— ?
THES. What is it you ask?

EPIDICUS
Where are the arms of Stratippocles?

THESPRIO
I' faith, they've gone over to the enemy.

EPIDICUS

What, his arms?

THESPRIO
Aye, and quickly too.

EPIDICUS
Do you say that seriously?

THESPRIO
Seriously I say it; the enemy have got them.

EPIDICUS
By my troth, a disgraceful affair.

THESPRIO
Still, before now, other persons have done the same. This affair will turn out to his honor.

EPIDICUS
How so?

THESPRIO
Because it has been so to others before.

EPIDICUS
Mulciber, I suppose, made the arms which Stratippocles had; they flew over to the enemy.

THESPRIO
Why, then, e'en let this son of Thetis lose them; the daughters of Nereus will bring him others.

EPIDICUS
Only this must be looked to, that material may be found for the armourers, if in each campaign he yields a spoil to the enemy.

THESPRIO
Have done now with these matters.

EPIDICUS
You yourself make an end of them when you please.

THESPRIO
Cease your enquiries then.

EPIDICUS
Say, where is Stratippocles himself?

THESPRIO
There is a reason, for which reason he has been afraid to come together with me.

EPIDICUS
Pray, what is it?

THESPRIO
He doesn't wish to see his father as yet.

EPIDICUS
For what reason?

THESPRIO
You shall hear; because he has purchased out of the spoil a young female captive of charming and genteel figure.

EPIDICUS
What is it I hear from you?

THESPRIO
That which I'm telling you.

EPIDICUS
Why has he purchased her?

THESPRIO
To please his fancy.

EPIDICUS

How many fancies has this man? For assuredly, before he went away from home to the army, he himself commissioned me, that a music-girl whom he was in love with should be purchased of a Procurer for him. That I have managed to accomplish for him.

THESPRIO
Whichever way the wind is at sea, Epidicus, in that direction the sail is shifted.

EPIDICUS
Woe unto wretched me! He has utterly undone me!

THESPRIO
What's the meaning of this? What's the matter, pray?

EPIDICUS
Well now — she whom he has bought, at what sum has he purchased her?

THESPRIO
A very little.

EPIDICUS
That I don't ask you.

THESPRIO
What then?

EPIDICUS
For how many minæ?

THESPRIO
holding up all his fingers four times . For so many.

EPIDICUS
Forty minæ?

THESPRIO

For that purpose, he borrowed the money on interest of a Banker at Thebes, at a didrachm for each silver mina per day.

EPIDICUS
Surprising!

THESPRIO
This Banker, too, has come together with him, and is dunning for his money.

EPIDICUS
Immortal Gods! now I'm fairly done for!

THESPRIO
Why so, or.what's the matter, Epidicus?

EPIDICUS
He has proved my ruin!

THESPRIO
Who?

EPIDICUS
Who? He who lost his arms.

THESPRIO
But why so?

EPIDICUS
Because he himself was every day sending me letters from the army — but I shall hold my tongue; it's best to do so. It's best for a man in servitude to know more than he says; that's true wisdom.

THESPRIO
On my faith, I don't understand why you are alarmed. You are frightened, Epidicus; I see it by your countenance. You seem here, in my absence, to have got into some scrape or other.

EPIDICUS
Can't you cease annoying me?

THESPRIO
I'll be off. *Moves as if going.*

EPIDICUS
Stand still; I'll not let you go from here. *Holds him.* THES. Why do you hold me back?

EPIDICUS
Is he in love with her whom he has purchased out of the spoil?

THESPRIO
Do you ask me? He dotes to death upon her.

EPIDICUS
The hide will be stripped from off my back.

THESPRIO
He loves her, too, more than ever he loved you.

EPIDICUS
May Jupiter confound you!

THESPRIO
Let me go now; for he has forbidden me to go to our house; he ordered me to come here *pointing to the house* to our neighbour's, Chæribulus; there he bade me wait; he's about to come there himself.

EPIDICUS
Why so?

THESPRIO
I'll tell you; because he doesn't wish to meet with or see his father, before he has paid down this money which is owing for her.

EPIDICUS

O dear! an involved business, i' faith.

THESPRIO
Do let go of me, that I may now be off forthwith.

EPIDICUS
When the old gentleman knows this, our ship will fairly founder.

THESPRIO
What matters it to me in what way you come to your end?

EPIDICUS
Because I don't wish to perish alone; I'd like you to perish with me, well-wisher with well-wisher.

THESPRIO
tearing himself away from EPIDICUS . Away with you from me to utter and extreme perdition with those terms of yours!

EPIDICUS
Be off, then, if you are in great haste about anything.

THESPRIO
aside . I never met with any person from whom I parted with greater pleasure. *Goes into the house of CHÆRIBULUS.*

EPIDICUS
to himself . He's gone away from here; you are now alone. In what plight this matter is, you now see, Epidicus. Unless you have some resources in your own self, you are done for. Ruination so great is impending over you — unless you support yourself stoutly, you cannot hold up; to such a degree are mountains of misfortune threatening to tumble on you. Neither does any plan just now please me by means of which to find myself disengaged from my entanglement. To my misfortune, by my trickeries I have forced the old man to imagine that he was making purchase of his own daughter; whereas he has bought for his own son a music-girl whom he was fond of, and whom on his departure he commissioned me

about. He now, to please his fancy, has brought another one from the army. I've lost my hide, for when the old man finds out that he has been played tricks with, he'll be flaying my back with twigs. But still, do you take all precautions. *He stands still and thinKs.* That's of no use! clearly this head of mine is addled! You are a worthless fellow, Epidicus. *In another tone.* What pleasure have you in being abusive? Because you are forsaking yourself. What am I to do? Do you ask me the question? Why you yourself, in former days, were wont to lend advice to others. Well, well; something must be found out. But why delay to go meet the young man, that I may know how the matter stands? And here he is himself. He is in a grave mood. He's coming with Chæribulus, his year's-mate. I'll step aside here, whence at my leisure I'll follow their discourse. *He steps aside.*

Enter STRATIPPOCLES and CHÆRIBULUS.

STRATIPPOCLES
I've told you all the matter, Chæribulus, and I have fully disclosed to you the sum of my griefs and loves.

CHÆR.
You are foolish, Stratippocles, beyond your age and lineage. Does it shame you, because you have bought a captive girl, born of good family, from among the spoil? Who will there be to impute it as a fault to you?

STRATIPPOCLES
Through doing this, I've found that those who are envious are all enemies to me; but I've never offered violence or criminal assault against her chastity.

CHÆR.
Then, so far, in my opinion at least, you are a still more deserving man, inasmuch as you are temperate in your passion.

STRATIPPOCLES
He effects nothing who consoles a desponding man with his words: he is a friend, who, in dubious circumstances, aids in deed when

deeds are necessary.

CHÆR.
What do you wish me to do?

STRATIPPOCLES
To lend me forty minæ of silver, to be paid to the Banker from whom I borrowed it on interest.

CHÆR.
On my word, if I had it, I would not deny you.

STRATIPPOCLES
What then does it signify your being bounteous in talk, if all aid in the matter is dead outright.

CHÆR.
Why faith, I myself am quite wearied and distracted with being dunned.

STRATIPPOCLES
I had rather my friends of that sort were thrust into a furnace than into litigation. But now I could wish to buy me the assistance of Epidicus at a weighty price, a fellow whom I'll hand over well-liquored with stripes to the baker, unless he this day finds me forty minæ before I've mentioned to him the last syllable of the sum.

EPIDICUS
apart . The matter's all right; he promises well; he'll keep faith, I trust. *Ironically.* Without any expenditure of my own, an entertainment is already provided for my shoulder-blades. I'll accost the man. *He goes up to STRATIPPOCLES.* The servant Epidicus wishes health to his master Stratippocles, on his arrival from abroad.

STRATIPPOCLES
turning round . Where is he?

EPIDICUS

Here he is; I'm delighted that you have returned safe.

STRATIPPOCLES
I believe you as much in that as I do myself.

EPIDICUS
Have you been well all along?

STRATIPPOCLES
I've been free from disease; in mind I've been ailing.

EPIDICUS
As regarded myself, I've taken care of what you entrusted to me; it has been obtained; the female captive has been bought, about which matter you were sending me letters so often.

STRATIPPOCLES
You've lost all your labour.

EPIDICUS
But why have I lost it?

STRATIPPOCLES
Because she is not dear to my heart, nor does she please me.

EPIDICUS
What means it, then, that you gave me such strict injunctions, and sent letters to me?

STRATIPPOCLES
Formerly I did love her; but now another passion influences my heart.

EPIDICUS
I' faith, it is a shocking thing for that to be unpleasant for a man which you have managed well for him; where I've done well, I've in reality done ill, since love has shifted sides.

STRATIPPOCLES
I wasn't right in my mind when I sent those letters to you.

EPIDICUS
Is it proper that I should be the atonement for your folly, so as for you to substitute my back as the scape-goat for your folly?

STRATIPPOCLES
Why are we making words about that? This man *pointing to himself* has need of forty minæ, ready money, and in all haste, for him to pay a Banker, and speedily too.

EPIDICUS
Only tell me from what quarter you wish me to get them. From what banker am I to seek them?

STRATIPPOCLES
From where you like. But if I don't finger them before sunset, don't you enter my house; off with yourself to the mill.

EPIDICUS
You easily say that without risk and concern, and with a gay heart. I know our floggers; I feel the pain when I'm beaten.

STRATIPPOCLES
How say you now? Will you suffer me to destroy myself?

EPIDICUS
Don't do that. I'll cope with this peril and bold attempt in preference.

STRATIPPOCLES
Now you please me; now do I commend you.

EPIDICUS
I'll submit to this in any way that's pleasing to you.

STRATIPPOCLES
What then is to be done about this music-girl?

EPIDICUS
Some method shall be found out; by some means I'll disengage myself; some way I shall get extricated.

STRATIPPOCLES
You are full of scheming; I know you of old.

EPIDICUS
There is a rich Captain of Eubœa, abounding in plenty of gold, who, when he knows that that one was bought for you, and that this other one has been brought here, will forthwith be entreating you, of his own accord, to transfer that other one to him. But where is she whom you have brought with you?

STRATIPPOCLES
I shall have her here just now.

CHÆR.
What are we now doing here?

STRATIPPOCLES
Let's go in-doors here at your house, that, for the present, we may pass this day merrily. *They go into the house of CHÆRIBULUS.*

EPIDICUS
to himself . Go in-doors; I'll now call a council in my heart to adopt measures about this money business, against whom, in especial, war is to be declared, and out of whom I'm to get the money. Epidicus, consider what you are to do; thus suddenly has this business been thrown upon you. But now you must not be slumbering, nor have you any leisure for delay. Now must you be daring! 'Tis my fixed determination to lay siege to the old man. I'll go indoors; I'll tell the young man, my master's son, not to walk abroad here, or come anywhere in the way of the old gentleman. *Goes into the house of CHÆRIBULUS.*

ACT II.

Enter APÆCIDES and PERIPHANES, from the house of the former.

APAECIDES
Mostly all men are ashamed when they have no occasion to be; when they ought to be ashamed, then does shame forsake them, when there's a necessity for their being ashamed. That man, in fact, are you. What is there to be ashamed of in your bringing home a wife, poor, but born of good family? Especially her, whose daughter you say this girl is, who is at your house?

PERIPHIANES
I have some regard for my son.

APAECIDES
But, i' faith, the wife whom you buried I thought you had felt some respect for; whose tomb as oft as you see, you straightway sacrifice victims to Orcus; and not without reason, in fact, since you've been allowed to get the better of her by surviving her.

PERIPHIANES
Ah me! I was a Hercules while she was with me; and, upon my faith, the sixth labour was not more difficult to Hercules than the one that fell to my lot.

APAECIDES
I' faith, money's a handsome dowry.

PERIPHIANES
Troth, so it is, which isn't encumbered with a wife.

Enter EPIDICUS, from the house of CHÆRIBULUS, softly crossing the stage.

EPIDICUS
at the door, as he enters . Hist! hist! be silent, and have good

courage; with a fair omen have I come out of doors, the bird upon the left hand. *Pointing to his head.* I've got a sharp knife, with which to embowel the old man's purse; but see! here he is before the house of Apæcides, the two old fellows, just as I want. Now I shall change me into a leech, and suck out the blood of these who are called the pillars of the Senate.

PERIPHIANES
Let him be married at once.

APAECIDES
I approve of your design.

PERIPHIANES
For I've heard that he's entangled with love with a certain music-girl, I don't know who. At that I'm vexed to death.

EPIDICUS
apart . By my troth, all the Deities do aid, amplify, and love me; really, these men themselves are pointing out to me the way by means of which I'm to get the money out of them. Now then, come, equip yourself, Epidicus, and throw your cloak about your neck *suiting the action to the word* , and pretend as though you had been in search of the man all the city over. On with it, if you are going to do it! *He hurries past the OLD MEN as though he didn't see them, and calls out aloud.* Immortal Gods! I do wish I could meet with Periphanes at home, whom I'm tired with searching for all over the city, throughout the doctors' shops, throughout the barbers' shops, in the gymnasium, and in the Forum, at the perfumers' shops and the butchers' stalls, and round about the bankers' shops. I'm become hoarse with enquiring; I've almost dropped down with running.

PERIPHIANES
Epidicus!

EPIDICUS
looking round . Who is it that's calling Epidicus back?

PERIPHIANES
It's I, Periphanes.

APAECIDES
And I, Apæcides.

EPIDICUS
And I, indeed, am Epidicus. But, master, I find that you've both met me at the nick of time.

PERIPHIANES
What's the matter?

EPIDICUS
Wait, wait! *puffs and blows* ; prithee, do let me get breath!

PERIPHIANES
By all means, rest yourself.

EPIDICUS
I'm quite faint; I must recover my breath.

APAECIDES
Do rest yourself at your leisure.

EPIDICUS
Lend me your attention. All the men of the army have been remanded home from Thebes.

APAECIDES
Who knows for certain that this has been done?

EPIDICUS
I say that it has been done.

PERIPHIANES
Are you sure of that?

EPIDICUS

I am sure of it.

PERIPHIANES
Why are you sure of it?

EPIDICUS
Because I've seen the soldiers marching through the streets in shoals. They are bringing back their arms and their baggage-horses.

PERIPHIANES
Very good indeed!

EPIDICUS
Then, what prisoners they've got with them! boys, girls, in twos and threes; another one has got five; there's a crowd in the streets; they are looking out each for his son.

PERIPHIANES
I' troth, a business very well managed!

EPIDICUS
Then, filly as many of the courtesans as there are in the whole city were going decked out each to meet her lover; they were going to trap them; that's the fact, inasmuch as I gave especial attention to it; several of these had with them nets beneath their garments. When I came to the harbour, forthwith I espied her waiting there, and with her were four music-girls.

PERIPHIANES
With whom, Epidicus?

EPIDICUS
With her whom your son has been loving and doting on for years, with whom he's making all haste to ruin credit, property, himself, and yourself. She was on the lookout for him at the harbour.

PERIPHIANES
Just see the sorceress now!

EPIDICUS
But decked out, sparkling with gold, and adorned so splendidly! so nicely! so fashionably!

PERIPHIANES
What was she drest in? Was it a royal robe, or was it a plain dress?

EPIDICUS
A skylight one, according as these women coin names for garments.

PERIPHIANES
What! was she dressed in a skylight?

EPIDICUS
What's there wonderful in that? As though many women didn't go through the streets decked out with farms upon them. But when the tax is demanded, they declare it cannot be paid; while to these hussies, to whom a larger tax is paid, it can be paid. Why, what new names every year these women are finding for their clothing — the thin tunic, the thick tunic, your fulled linen cloth, chemises, bordered shifts' the marigold or saffron-coloured dress, the under-petticoat or else the light vermilion dress, the hood, the royal or the foreign robe, the wave pattern or the feather-pattern, the wax or the apple-tint. The greatest nonsense! From dogs, too, do they even take the names.

PERIPHIANES
How so?

EPIDICUS
They call one the Laconian. These names compel men to make auctions.

PERIPHIANES
But do you say on as you commenced.

EPIDICUS
Two other women behind me began to speak thus between themselves; I, like my wont, went away a little distance from them; I

pretended that I wasn't attending to their talk: I didn't quite hear all, and still I wasn't deceived in a word they said.

PERIPHIANES
I long to hear it.

EPIDICUS
Then one of them said to the other with whom she was talking ——

PERIPHIANES
What?

EPIDICUS
Be quiet then, that you may hear. After they had caught sight of her whom your son is dying for: "Prithee, how happily and luckily has it befallen that woman for her lover to be wishing to set her free." "Who is he?" said the other. She mentioned Stratippocles.

PERIPHIANES
Troth now, I'm undone; what is it I hear of you?

EPIDICUS
That which really took place. After this, I myself, when I heard them talking, began again to draw closer towards them little by little, as though the crowd of people was pushing me, whether I would or no.

PERIPHIANES
I understand.

EPIDICUS
Then the one asked the other, "How do you know?" "Why, because a letter has been brought her to-day from Stratippocles; that he has borrowed money on interest from a banker at Thebes; that it is ready, and he himself has brought it for that purpose."

PERIPHIANES
Tell on — I'm undone!

EPIDICUS
She said that she had heard so from her and from the letter which she had seen.

PERIPHIANES
What am I to do now? I ask your advice, Apæcides.

APAECIDES
Let us find some clever, useful expedient; for he, indeed, will either be here just now, or is here already.

EPIDICUS
If it were right for me to be wiser than you, I could give you some good advice, which you will praise, I fancy, both of you ——

PERIPHIANES
Then where is it, Epidicus?

EPIDICUS
Yes, and useful for this purpose,

APAECIDES
Why do you hesitate to mention it?

EPIDICUS
It's proper for yourselves, who are the wiser, to be the first to speak, and for me to speak afterwards.

PERIPHIANES
Aye, aye, of course — come, say on.

EPIDICUS
But you'll laugh at me.

APAECIDES
On my word, we will not do so.

EPIDICUS

Well then, if it pleases you, use my advice; if it doesn't please you, find better. There's neither sowing nor reaping for me in this matter; only that I do wish the same that you wish.

PERIPHIANES
I return you thanks. Make us partakers in your wisdom.

EPIDICUS
Let a wife at once be chosen for your son; and so take vengeance on this music-girl whom he wants to liberate, and who is corrupting him for you; and so let it be managed, that even until her dying day she may remain a slave.

APAECIDES
It ought to be so managed.

PERIPHIANES
I am ready to do anything, so long only as this may be brought about

EPIDICUS
Well then, now there's an opportunity of doing so, before he comes into the city, as to-morrow he will be here; to-day he will not have come.

PERIPHIANES
How do you know?

EPIDICUS
I do know, because another person told me, who came from there, that he would be here in the morning.

PERIPHIANES
Then say you what we are to do.

EPIDICUS
I'm of opinion that you ought to do thus: you must pretend as though you were desirous to give her liberty to the music-girl for your own whim, and as though you were violently in love with her.

PERIPHIANES
To what advantage does that tend?

EPIDICUS
Do you ask that? Why, that you may purchase her beforehand with money, before your son comes, and may say that you bought her to set her at liberty ——

PERIPHIANES
I understand.

EPIDICUS
When she's bought, you must remove her somewhere out of the city; unless your own feelings are any way opposed.

PERIPHIANES
O no, skilfully suggested.

EPIDICUS
But what say you, Apæcides?

APAECIDES
Why, what should I? Except that I think you've contrived it very cleverly.

EPIDICUS
Then, in consequence, all thoughts of marriage with her will be removed from him, so that he will make no difficulties as to what you wish.

APAECIDES
Long life to you, wise as you are, it really does please us.

EPIDICUS
Do you then skilfully do whatever you are going to do.

PERIPHIANES
I' faith, you speak to the purpose.

EPIDICUS
I have found, too, how this suspicion may be removed from yourself.

PERIPHIANES
Let me know it.

EPIDICUS
You shall know it; just listen.

APAECIDES
He's come with a breast full of counsel.

EPIDICUS
There's need of a person to carry the money there for the music-girl; but there's no equal necessity for yourself to do it.

PERIPHIANES
Why so?

EPIDICUS
Lest he should think you are doing it for the sake of your son ——

PERIPHIANES
Cleverly thought of!

EPIDICUS
By which means you'll keep him away from her; lest any difficulty might arise by reason of that suspicion.

PERIPHIANES
What person shall we find suited to this purpose?

EPIDICUS
pointing to APÆCIDES. He will be the best; he will be able to take all due precautions, as he understands the laws and ordinances.

PERIPHIANES
Epidicus, receive my thanks. But I'll attend to this with all care.

EPIDICUS
I'll find him and bring him here to you, to whom the music-girl belongs; and I'll take the money along with him. *Pointing to APÆCIDES.*

PERIPHIANES
For how much, at the lowest, can she be bought?

EPIDICUS
What, she? Perhaps she might possibly be bought at the lowest for forty minæ; but if you give me more, I shall return it. There's no trickery in this matter. This money, too, of yours won't be locked up ten days.

PERIPHIANES
How so?

EPIDICUS
Why, because another young man is dying with love for this woman, one abounding in money, a great warrior, a Rhodian, a spoiler of his foes, a boaster; he'll buy her of you, and give the money with pleasure. You only do it; there's a large profit for you here.

PERIPHIANES
I really pray the Gods it may be so.

EPIDICUS
You'll obtain your prayer.

APAECIDES
Why then, don't you go in-doors and bring the money out here? I'll go visit the Forum. Epidicus, do you come thither.

EPIDICUS
to APÆCIDES . Don't you go away from there before I come to you.

APAECIDES
I'll wait till then.

PERIPHIANES
to EPIDICUS . Do you follow me in- doors.

EPIDICUS
Go and count it out; I'll not detain you at all. *(Exit APÆCIDES, and PERIPHANES goes into his house.)*

EPIDICUS, alone.

EPIDICUS
to himself . I do think that in the Attic land there is no spot of land so fertile as is this Periphanes of ours; why, from the locked and sealed-up money-chest I summon forth silver just as much as I please. But this, i' troth, I am afraid of, that if the old man should come to know it, he'll be making parasites of elm-twigs, to be shaving me quite clean. But one matter and consideration disturbs me — what music-girl, one that goes out on hire, I'm to show to Apæcides. *He muses.* And that as well I've got: this morning the old gentleman bade me bring for him on hire some music-girl to his house here, to sing for him while he was performing a sacrifice. She shall be hired, and be instructed beforehand in what way she's to prove herself cunning towards the old man. I'll away in-doors; I'll get the money out of the swindled old fellow. *He goes into the house of PERIPHANES.*

ACT III.

Enter STRATIPPOCLES and CHÆRIBULUS, from the house of the latter.

STRATIPPOCLES
I'm distractedly in suspense and worn to the heart with waiting how the fair promises of Epidicus will turn out for me. I've been tormented too long. Whether there is to be anything, or whether there is not, I wish to know.

CHÆR.
For all these resources you may still seek some other resources for yourself. For my part, I knew at the first, or the instant, that there was no help for you in him.

STRATIPPOCLES
Upon my faith, I'm ruined!

CHÆR.
You act absurdly in tormenting yourself in mind. By my troth, if I should catch him, I would never allow that slave of a fellow to be laughing at us with impunity.

STRATIPPOCLES
What can you expect him to do, you, who have such great wealth at home, and have not a coin of it, as you say, and have in yourself no resources for your friend?

CHÆR.
I' faith, if I had had it, I should have proffered it with pleasure; but something in some manner, in some way, in some direction, from some person, some hope I have for you, that there'll be some good fortune for you to share with me.

STRATIPPOCLES
Woe to you, you sneaking fellow.

CHÆR.
Why does it please you to abuse me?

STRATIPPOCLES
Why, because you are prating to me about something in some manner, from somewhere or other, from some persons, that nowhere exists, and I won't admit it to my ears. Of no more assistance are you unto me than he who never yet has been born. *They stand near the door of the house of CHÆRIBULUS.*

Enter EPIDICUS, from the house of PERIPHANES, with a bag of money round his neck.

EPIDICUS
to PERIPHANES, within the house . You've done your duty then; it now befits me to do mine. Through this care of mine, you may be allowed to be at ease. *In a lower voice.* This, in fact, is now lost to you; don't at all be setting your hopes on it. *Holding some of the coins in his hands.* How very shining it is! You only trust me for that. This way I'm going to act, this way my forefathers have acted before me. O ye immortal Gods, what a brilliant day you have bestowed upon me in this how propitious and how favourable to my requests! But why do I delay to take my departure hence, that I may bear this supply with lucky auspices to the colony. I'm delaying while I'm standing here. But what means this? Before the house I see the two companions, my master and Chæribulus. *Accosting them.* What are you doing? Take this, will you. *Gives STRATIPPOCLES the bag of money.*

STRATIPPOCLES
How much is there in this?

EPIDICUS
As much as is enough, and more than enough; a superabundance; I've brought more by ten minæ than you owe to the Banker. So long as I please and obey you, I value my own back at a straw.

STRATIPPOCLES

But why so?

EPIDICUS
Because I shall make your father a bag-murderer.

STRATIPPOCLES
What kind of expression is that?

EPIDICUS
I don't at all care for your old-fashioned and every-day words; you chouse by purses full, but I'll chouse by bags full. For the procurer took away a whole lot of money for the music-girl (I paid it; with these hands I counted it out), her whom your father supposes to be his own daughter. Now, again, that your father may be deceived, and assistance be provided for you, I've discovered a method. In such a way have I persuaded the old gentleman — and had a talk to this effect, that, when you returned, you might not have possession of her ——

STRATIPPOCLES
Bravo! — bravo!

EPIDICUS
She's now at your house in place of her.

STRATIPPOCLES
I understand.

EPIDICUS
Now he has given me Apæcides by way of guarantee in this matter (he's waiting for me at the Forum), as if to seem the purchaser.

STRATIPPOCLES
Not a bad precaution!

EPIDICUS
The cautious man's now taken in himself; your own father himself placed this purse around my neck. He's making preparation, that

immediately on your arrival home you shall be married.

STRATIPPOCLES
In one way only will he persuade me; if Orcus takes her away from me, who has been brought with me.

EPIDICUS
Now I've hit upon this scheme: I'll go by myself alone to the procurer's house; I'll instruct him, if any one comes to him, to say that the money has been paid him for the music-girl; inasmuch as, the day before yesterday, I paid it down with my own hands for this mistress of yours, whom your father takes to be his own daughter. Then the procurer, unknowingly, will be staking his accursed head, as though he had received the money for her who has now been brought here together with you.

CHÆR.
You are more versatile than a potter's-wheel.

EPIDICUS
Now I'll get ready some artful music-girl, who's hired at a didrachm, to pretend that she has been purchased, and cleverly to trick the two old fellows: Apæcides, together with her, will bring her to your father.

STRATIPPOCLES
How adroitly managed!

EPIDICUS
Her, prepared beforehand with my devices, and provided with my schemes, I shall send to him. But I'm talking at too great length; you have delayed me too long: you now know these things how they are to be; I'll be off.

STRATIPPOCLES
Success attend you! *Exit EPIDICUS.*

CHÆR.

He is very clever at artful tricks.

STRATIPPOCLES
Indeed, by his plans, he has saved me, that's sure.

CHÆR.
Let's go hence into my house.

STRATIPPOCLES
Yes, and a little more joyfully than I came out of your house, by the courage and conduct of Epidicus, do I return into camp with the spoil. *They go into the house.*

Enter PERIPHANES.

PERIPHIANES
to herself . Not only for the sake of the face were it right for men to have a mirror for themselves wherein to look at their faces; but one with which they might be enabled to examine the heart of discretion, and therefore be able to examine the resources of the mind; when they had looked in that, they might afterwards consider how they had once passed their lives in youth. Just as myself, for instance, who, for the sake of my son, began to torment myself in mind, as though my son had been guilty of some offence against, me, or as though my own misdeeds had not been most heavy in my youth. In truth, we old fellows are out of our senses sometimes. This, in my own opinion at least, has proved advantageous. But my friend Apæcides is coming with the spoil. I'm glad that the negotiator has returned safe. *Enter APÆCIDES, with a MUSIC-GIRL.*

PERIPHIANES
How goes it?

APAECIDES
The Gods and Goddesses are favouring you.

PERIPHIANES
The omen pleases me.

APAECIDES
A person with whom all things go on prosperously. But do you order her to be taken in-doors.

PERIPHIANES
going to the door of his house, and calling . Hallo there! come out of doors here, some one. *A SERVANT comes out.* Take that woman into the house! And, do you hear?

SERV.
What do you desire?

PERIPHIANES
Take care you don't permit this woman to associate with my daughter, or to see her. Now do you understand? I wish her to be shut up apart in that little chamber; there's a great difference between the manners of a maiden and a courtesan. *The SERVANT leads the MUSIC-GIRL into the house.*

APAECIDES
You speak cleverly and judiciously; each man cannot keep too strict a guard upon the chastity of his daughter. Upon my faith, we certainly did forestall this woman from your son just in time.

PERIPHIANES
Why so?

APAECIDES
Because another person told me that he had just seen your son here.

PERT.
I' troth, he was stirring in this business.

APAECIDES
Upon my faith, it really is so, clearly. You really have a clever servant, and worth any price.

PERIPHIANES

At his weight in gold he would not be dear.

APAECIDES
How well he kept that Music-girl quite in ignorance that she was purchased for you; so full of joke and fun did he bring her hither along with him.

PERIPHIANES
It's wonderful how that could be managed.

APAECIDES
He said that you were going to offer a sacrifice at home for your son, because he had returned safe from Thebes.

PERIPHIANES
He hit upon the right thing.

APAECIDES
Yes, and he himself told her that she had been hired to assist you here in the sacrifice. He said that you were about to perform it, and that you had a sacrifice at home. But I then made pretence that I was ignorant, as it were, inasmuch as I made myself out half-witted.

PERIPHIANES
Why yes; it was right to do so.

APAECIDES
An important trial of a friend is going on at the Forum; I want to go as his advocate.

PERIPHIANES
Go, and when you have leisure, return to me mediately.

APAECIDES
I'll be here just now. *(Exit.)*

PERIPHIANES
to himself . Nothing is there more opportune to man than a friend in

need; without labour of your own, what you want is done nevertheless. If I had commissioned any one upon this business, a less skilful person, and less fitted for this matter, he would have been gulled; and so, grinning with his white teeth, my son would have most deservedly laughed at me. But who is this I see coming this way, that with his swaggering makes his scarf to be streaming in the wind? *He stands aside.*

Enter a CAPTAIN, with his SERVANT.

A CAPTAIN
to his SERVANT . Take care not to pass by any house without asking where lives the old gentleman, Periphanes of Plothea. Take care that you don't return to me without knowing it.

PERIPHIANES
coming forward . Young man, if I point out to you the person whom you are in search of, what thanks shall I get of you?

A CAPTAIN
In arms, by the might of war, I've deserved that all people ought to give me thanks.

PERIPHIANES
You haven't found out, young man, a tranquil spot where to recount your virtues as you wish; for, if an inferior vaunts his battles to a superior, by his lips they become soiled; but this Periphanes of Plothea whom you are seeking, I am he, if you want him for anything.

A CAPTAIN
Him, you mean, who in his youth among kings in arms, by his skill in war, gained vast wealth?

PERIPHIANES
Aye, if you were to hear of my achievements, drop ping your hands you would run off home.

A CAPTAIN
I' faith, I'm rather in search of one to whom to speak of my own, than of one to be speaking of his to me.

PERIPHIANES
This is not the place for it. Do you then look out for another person, into whom to stuff your scraps of nonsense. *Aside.* And yet this is folly, for me to impute that to him as a fault, which I myself used to do in my youth when I was a soldier; in recounting my battles I used to tear out men's ears by the roots, when I had once begun.

A CAPTAIN
Lend your attention, that you may learn what I've come to you about. I've heard that you have purchased my mistress.

PERIPHIANES
aside . Heyday! now at last I know who he is; the officer whom Epidicus was telling me about a short time since. *To the OFFICER.* Young man, it is as you say; I have purchased her.

A CAPTAIN
I want a few words with you, if it is not inconvenient to you.

PERIPHIANES
Upon my faith, I don't know whether it's convenient or not, until perhaps you say what you want.

A CAPTAIN
I want you to transfer her to me, and take the ransom.

PERIPHIANES
You may have her.

A CAPTAIN
But why should I hesitate to speak out to you? I wish at once to make her my freed-woman, that she may be my mistress.

PERIPHIANES

I'll make short work with you; she was bought for me for fifty minæ of silver; if sixty minæ are paid down to me, I'll let the damsel employ your holidays, and so assuredly so, that, if you like, you may remove her from this country.

A CAPTAIN
Is she then purchased by me?

PERIPHIANES
On those terms you may have her. You have made a good bargain. *Going to the door of his house.* Hallo there! bring out of doors the Music-girl you took in. The harp, too, as well, that was thrown in with her, I'll make you a present of it for nothing. *MUSIC-GIRL.*

PERIPHIANES
taking her by the hand and leading her to the CAPTAIN . Come, take her, please.

A CAPTAIN
What madness possesses you? What mystery are you devising for me? Why don't you order the Music-girl to be brought from in-doors?

PERIPHIANES
Why, this is the Music-girl. There's no other one here.

A CAPTAIN
You can't impose on me. Why don't you bring out here the Music-girl Acropolistis?

PERIPHIANES
This, I tell you, is she.

A CAPTAIN
This, I tell you, is not she. Do you suppose that I can't know my own mistress?

PERIPHIANES

It was this Music-girl, I tell you, for whom my son was dying with love.

A CAPTAIN
This is not she.

PERT.
How, not she?

A CAPTAIN
It is not.

PERT.
Where in the world, then, does, she come from? For my part, i' faith, I certainly paid the money for her.

A CAPTAIN
Foolishly paid, I guess, and a mighty mistake.

PERIPHIANES
Nay, but this is she; for I sent the servant who is in the habit of attending my son; he himself this moment purchased the Music-girl.

A CAPTAIN
Well then, this fellow has cut you up joint by joint, old gentleman, this servant of yours.

PERIPHIANES
How, cut me up?

A CAPTAIN
Such is my suspicion; for she has been palmed upon you for that Music-girl. Old gentleman, you've been bubbled clearly and cleverly. I shall now go seek her wherever she is. Warrior, farewell! *(Exeunt the OFFICER and SERVANT.)*

PERIPHIANES
stamnping with rage . Bravo, bravo! Epidicus You're a clever

fellow! You have fought well — you're a man! you've wiped my nose when snivelling, worthless fellow that I am! *To the MUSIC-GIRL.* Did Apæcides purchase you to-day of the procurer? *A pause.* Come now, tell me.

MUS.-G.
I never heard of that person before to-day, nor, indeed, was any one able to purchase me for any money; I've been free now for more than five years.

PERIPHIANES
What business have you, then, at my house?

MUS.-G.
You shall hear; I came, being hired to perform for an old gentleman while he was sacrificing.

PERIPHIANES
I do confess that I am the most worthless of all men in Athens of Attica. But do you know Acropolistis the Music-girl?

MUS.-G.
As well as my own self.

PERIPHIANES
Where does she live?

MUS.-G.
Since she has been made free, I don't know for certain.

PERIPHIANES
Well now, I should like to know who has made her free, if you know?

MUS.-G.
That which I have heard, you shall hear; I heard that Stratippocles, the son of Periphanes, had provided in his absence that she should be made free.

PERIPHIANES
By heavens, I'm undone, most clearly, if these things are true. Epidicus has disembowelled my purse!

MUS.-G.
I've heard to that effect. Do you want me for anything else?

PERIPHIANES
Away to perdition in the veriest torments, and off this instant!

MUS.-G.
Won't you give me back my harp?

PERT.
Neither harp nor pipes. Make haste, then, and escape from here, if the Gods love you!

MUS.-G.
I'll be off. At a future time, however, you'll restore it, with the greater disgrace to yourself. *(Exit.)*

PERIPHIANES
to himself . What now? Shall I, who have been placed before so many edicts, allow him to get with impunity? No; even though as much again should be required to be lost, I'll lose it rather than allow myself to be held in derision with impunity and plundered by them. That I should have been thus cheated openly to my face, and that I should have been set at nought before this Apæcides, who is famed as being the framer and founder of all the laws and ordinances! He too declares that he is a wise man! that the hammer, forsooth, should be wiser than the handle! *He stands aside.*

ACT IV.

Enter PHILIPPA, at a distance.

PHILIPPA
to herself . If a mortal being has aught of misery, through which, miserable creature, to be wretched from the heart, that same do I experience, for whom full many a woe unites in the same spot, which, all, at the same instant are beating against my breast. A multitude of troubles keep me in suspense. Poverty and misery alarm the thoughts of my heart; nor have I anywhere a spot of safety where to fix my hopes; in such a way has my daughter fallen into the power of the enemy; nor do I know where she now is.

PERIPHIANES
apart . Who is this woman coming from a distance with a breast filled with alarms, and who thus bewails her lot?

PHILIPPA
to herself . It was told me that Periphanes was living in this neighbourhood.

PERIPHIANES
apart . She's mentioning me; need of hospitality has befallen her, I suppose.

PHILIPPA
to herself . I would be very willing to give a reward to any one who would point me out that man, or where he dwells.

PERIPHIANES
apart . I recognize her; for I think I have seen her before; where, I know not. Is it, or is it not she, whom my mind suspects her to be?

>PHIL.
seeing him . Good Gods! I have seen this person before!

PERIPHIANES
to himself . It surely is she, a poor woman whom I remember having an intrigue with at Epidaurus.

PHILIPPA
to herself . Surely it is he, who at Epidaurus first violated my maiden modesty.

PERIPHIANES
to himself . She who had the daughter by me whom I've now got at home.

PHILIPPA
to herself . What if I accost him?

PERIPHIANES
to himself . I don't know whether to make up to her. If this is she ——

PHILIPPA
to herself . But if it is the man, as length of years renders me doubtful ——

PERIPHIANES
to himself . Length of time renders my mind uncertain. But if it is she, whom with some doubt I conjecture it to be, I'll accost her circumspectly.

PHILIPPA
to herself . A woman's artfulness must be employed by me.

PERIPHIANES
to himself . I'll address her.

PHILIPPA
to herself . I'll bring my powers of conversation to bear against him.

PERIPHIANES

accosting her . Health to you!

PHILIPPA
That health I accept for me and mine.

PERIPHIANES
What besides?

PHILIPPA
Health to yourself; what you lent me, I return.

PERIPHIANES
I don't impeach your punctuality. Don't I know you?

PHILIPPA
If I know you, I'll move your feelings, so that you shall know me.

PERIPHIANES
Where have I been in the habit of seeing you?

PHILIPPA
You are unfairly hard upon me.

PERIPHIANES
Why so?

PHILIPPA
Because you think it right that I should be the prompter of your memory.

PERIPHIANES
You speak to the purpose.

PHILIPPA
You say what's strange to me, Periphanes.

PERIPHIANES
Ah now! that's better. Do you remember, Philippa ——

PHILIPPA
Yes, I remember that.

PERIPHIANES
At Epidaurus ——

PHILIPPA
Ah! you have moistened my burning breast with a little drop of comfort.

PERIPHIANES
How I relieved the poverty of you, a poor young maiden, and your mother?

PHILIPPA
What, are you he who for your own gratification brought heavy troubles upon me?

PERIPHIANES
I am he. Health to you.

PHILIPPA
I am in health, since I see you in health.

PERIPHIANES
Give me your hand.

PHILIPPA
extending her hand, which he takes . Take it — you hold by the hand a woman distrest and full of woes.

PERIPHIANES
What is it that disturbs your features?

PHILIPPA
The daughter whom I had by you ——

PERIPHIANES

What of her?

PHILIPPA
When I had brought her up, I lost her; she fell into the hands of the enemy.

PERIPHIANES
Keep your mind in quiet and at rest. Why look, she's here at my house safe and sound. For immediately I heard from my servant that she was a captive, instantly I gave the money for her to be purchased; he managed this affair as discreetly and frugally as in other matters he is egregiously — dishonest.

PHILIPPA
Let me see her, whether it is she or no.

PERIPHIANES
going to the door of his house . Hallo there! you — Canthara, this instant bid my daughter come out before the house, that she may see her mother.

PHILIPPA
My spirits now at last return to me.

Enter ACROPOLISTIS from the house.

ACROPOLISTIS
Why is it, father, that you have called me out before the house?

PERIPHIANES
That you may see and accost your mother, and wish her health on her arrival, and give her kisses.

ACROPOLISTIS
looking about . What mother of mine?

PERIPHIANES
pointing to PHILIPPA . She who, half dead, is following your gaze.

PHILIPPA
Who is this that you are requesting to kiss me?

PERIPHIANES
Your own daughter.

PHILIPPA
What, she?

PERIPHIANES
She.

PHILIPPA
What — am I to kiss her?

PERIPHIANES
Why not, her who was born of you?

PHILIPPA
Man, you are mad.

PERIPHIANES
What, I?

PHILIPPA
Yes, you.

PERT.
Why?

PHILIPPA
Because this woman — I neither know nor understand who she is, nor have I beheld her with my eyes before this day.

PERIPHIANES
I know why you are mistaken; because this woman has her dress and ornaments changed.

PHILIPPA

Puppies have one smell, pigs quite another; I say that I do not know her, who she is.

PERIPHIANES
stamping with rage . Oh! by our trust in Gods and men, what is this? Am I following the calling of a Procurer, to be keeping strange women in my house, and to be emptying my house of my money? *To ACROPOLISTIS.* What are you to be calling me your father and kissing me? Why stand you stupidly there? Why do you keep silent?

ACROPOLISTIS
What do you want me to say?

PERIPHIANES
pointing to PHILIPPA . She denies that she is your mother.

ACROPOLISTIS
Don't let her be so, if she don't choose. For my own part, whether she likes it or not, I shall be my mother's daughter still. It isn't right for me to compel this woman to be my mother if she doesn't like.

PERIPHIANES
Why then did you call me father?

ACROPOLISTIS
That is your own fault, not mine; ought I not to call you father when you call me daughter? Her too, as well *pointing to PHILIPPA* if she were to call me daughter, I should call mother. She declares that I am not her daughter; then she is not my mother. In fine, this is no fault of mine; what I've been taught, I've told you all of it. Epidicus was my instructor.

PERIPHIANES
I'm undone! I've upset my waggon!

ACROPOLISTIS
Have I done anything amiss towards that?

PERIPHIANES
Upon my faith, if I ever hear you call me father, I'll put an end to your life, you jade!

ACROPOLISTIS
I shan't call you so. When you want to be my father, then be so; when you don't want, don't be my father.

PHILIPPA
to PERIPHANES . What? Did you purchase her for that reason, because you supposed her to be your daughter? By what signs did you recognize her?

PERIPHIANES
By none.

PHILIPPA
Why did you suppose her to be our daughter?

PERIPHIANES
My servant Epidicus told me so.

PHILIPPA
What if it had seemed to your servant otherwise? Prithee, could you not have known?

PERIPHIANES
How should I, who had never seen her after having once beheld her.

PHILIPPA
Wretched creature, I'm quite undone! *Begins to weep.*

PERIPHIANES
Don't weep, madam; go in-doors; be of good courage; I'll find her out.

PHILIPPA
An Attic citizen from Athens here purchased her Indeed, they said it

was a young man who had bought her.

PERIPHIANES
I will find her; hold your peace. Only do go in-doors, and keep an eye upon this Circe, this daughter of the Sun. *She goes into the house, followed by ACROPOLISTIS.* All business laid aside, I'll give my attention to seeking for Epidicus. If I find him, I'll make this day become the final one for him. *(Exit.)*

ACT V.

Enter STRATIPPOCLES, from the house of CHÆRIBULUS.

STRATIPPOCLES
to himself . The Banker is inattentive to me, not to seek the money of me, or bring this woman who has been purchased out of the spoil. But see — here comes Epidicus How's this, that in gloominess his brow is wrinkled? *at a distance.*

EPIDICUS
to himself . If Jupiter unto himself were to take the eleven Gods beside himself, even then, all of them would not be able to rescue Epidicus from torture. I've seen Periphanes buying the thongs; Apæcides was together with him; now, I do believe that these persons are in search of me. They have found it out; they know that they've been imposed upon.

STRATIPPOCLES
coming forward . What are you about, my ready occasion?

EPIDICUS
That which a wretched fellow is about.

STRATIPPOCLES
What's the matter with you?

EPIDICUS
Why don't you prepare for me the necessaries for flight before I'm quite undone? For the two fleeced old gentlemen are hunting for me through the city; they are carrying in their hands handcuffs an inch and a half thick.

STRATIPPOCLES
Be of good heart ——

EPIDICUS

Of course I will, whose freedom is so close at hand.

STRATIPPOCLES
I will preserve you.

EPIDICUS
I' faith, they'll do it better for me, if they catch me. But who's this young woman, this greyish old fellow, too, that's coming along? *are seen at a distance.*

STRATIPPOCLES
This is the Banker, and this is the woman whom I purchased out of the spoil.

EPIDICUS
What, is this she?

STRATIPPOCLES
It is she. Isn't she just like what I told you? Look at her.

EPIDICUS
Is it she?

STRATIPPOCLES
Survey her, Epidicus. Even from her nail to the top of her hair she is most lovely! Is she not? Do look at her! Observe her! You'll be looking at a picture beautifully painted.

EPIDICUS
Judging from your words you are foretelling that my hide will be beautifully painted; me, whom Apelles and Zeuxis, the pair of them, will be painting with elm-tree pigments. *Enter the BANKER and TELESTIS.*

STRATIPPOCLES
to the BANKER. Immortal Gods! I'm surprised at your slowness. The man that's spoken of in the proverb with swollen feet, would have got here sooner than you have arrived for me.

A BANKER.
pointing to TELESTIS . I' faith, 'twas she delayed me.

STRATIPPOCLES
If indeed you delayed for her sake, because she wished it, you have come too quickly.

A BANKER.
Well, well, dispatch with me and count out the money, that I mayn't be detaining my friends.

STRATIPPOCLES
It has been counted out.

A BANKER.
giving him a bag . Take this bag; put it into it.

STRATIPPOCLES
You come discreetly provided! Wait till I bring out the money to you.

A BANKER.
Make haste.

STRATIPPOCLES
It's at home. *Goes into the house of CHÆRIBULUS.*

EPIDICUS
looking steadily at TELESTIS . Have I the use of my eyes quite unimpaired, or is it otherwise? Do I not behold in you, Telestis, the daughter of Periphanes, born at Thebes of your mother Philippa, and conceived at Epidaurus?

TELESTIS
What person are you who are making mention of the name of my parents and my own?

EPIDICUS

Don’t you know me?

TELESTIS
Not, indeed, so far as recurs to my mind just now.

EPIDICUS
Don’t you remember my bringing you a crescent upon your birthday, and a little gold ring for your finger? *STRATIPPOCLES returns with the money.*

TELESTIS
I remember it. What, are you that person?

EPIDICUS
I am, and *pointing to STRATIPPOCLES, at a distance* he there is your brother by another mother and the same father.

TELESTIS
in agitation . What of my father? Is he alive?

EPIDICUS
Be of calm and composed feelings; hold your peace.

TELESTIS
The Gods will that from being lost I should be saved, if you speak the truth.

EPIDICUS
I have no occasion to be telling untruths to you.

STRATIPPOCLES
to the BANKER . Take this money, Banker; here are forty minæ. If any piece shall be doubtful I’ll change it. *Gives him the money.*

A BANKER.
You do well. Kindly farewell. *(Exit.)*

STRATIPPOCLES

to TELESTIS . Now then you are my own ——

TELESTIS
Why yes — sister, i' faith, that you may know it as well. Greetings to you, brother.

STRATIPPOCLES
to EPIDICUS . Is this woman in her senses?

EPIDICUS
In her senses, if she calls you her brother.

STRATIPPOCLES
How's this? Have I just now become her brother while going in-doors and coming out?

EPIDICUS
What good fortune there is, do you in silence keep your peace thereon and rejoice.

STRATIPPOCLES
Sister, you have both lost and found me!

EPIDICUS
Simpleton, hold your tongue! Through my endeavours, there's ready for you at home, in fact, a Music-girl for you to make love to; I too, through my endeavours, have restored your sister to liberty.

STRATIPPOCLES
Epidicus, I confess ——

EPIDICUS
Be off into the house, and order the water to be made warm for her. The rest I'll let you know afterwards, when there's leisure.

STRATIPPOCLES
Follow me this way, sister.

EPIDICUS
I'll bid Thesprio come across to you. But remember, if the old gentlemen are at all savage, you, with your sister, to run and help me.

STRATIPPOCLES
That will be easy. *He and TELESTIS go into the house of PERIPHANES.*

EPIDICUS
going to the door of the house of CHÆRIBULUS . Thesprio, come this way through the garden. Come to my rescue at home! The matter's of importance! *To himself.* I care much less for the old fellows than I did just now. I'll return in-doors, that the strangers may be attended to on their arrival. I'll tell these same things that I know, in-doors to Stratippocles. I shall not take to flight; I'm determined to be there at home, and he shan't throw it in my teeth that he has been provoked by my running away. I'll away in-doors; I've been talking too long. *(Goes into the house of PERIPHANES.)*

Enter PERIPHANES and APÆCIDES, with thongs in their hands.

PERIPHIANES
Hasn't this fellow quite made a laughing-stock of us two decrepit old people?

APAECIDES
Why yes, I' faith, you've really kept me plagued in a shocking fashion.

PERIPHIANES
Now do hold your tongue. Only let me catch the fellow!

APAECIDES
I'll tell you now, that you may know it. It's best for you to seek another companion; so much, while I've been following you, has the congested blood, from weariness, come down into the knees of poor me.

PERIPHIANES
After how many fashions has this fellow made sport of me and you to-day! besides, how he has disembowelled my silver resources for me!

APAECIDES
Away with him from me; for surely he's the son of Vulcan in his wrath: wherever he touches, he sets all on fire; if you stand by him, he scorches you with his heat. *unperceived, from the house.*

EPIDICUS
to himself . More than the twelve Gods, the immortal Gods as many as are in the heavens, are now assistants in my rescue, and are fighting on my side. As to whatever I have offended in, I have aid and assistance at home. All my enemies I quite spurn by the heels.

PERIPHIANES
looking about . Where in the world shall I look for him?

APAECIDES
So long as you look for him without me, you may look for him even in the middle of the sea, as far as I'm concerned.

EPIDICUS
coming forward, and addressing PERIPHANES Why are you looking for me? Why are you taking this trouble? Why are you worrying him? *Pointing to APÆCIDES.* See, here I am. Have I run away from you? Have I betaken myself from the house? Have I hid myself from your sight? I don't entreat you either. Do you wish to bind me? Look then, I present my hands. *Holding out his hands.* You have got thongs; I saw you purchase them. Why do you delay now? Do bind me!

PERIPHIANES
It's all over. He gives bail to me of his own accord for his appearance.

EPIDICUS

Why don’t you bind me?

APAECIDES
A wicked slave, upon my faith!

EPIDICUS
Really, Apæcides, I don’t want you to intercede for me.

APAECIDES
You easily obtain your wish, Epidicus.

EPIDICUS
to PERIPHANES . Are you going to do anything?

PERIPHIANES
What, at your pleasure?

EPIDICUS
Troth, at my own, indeed, and not at yours, are these hands to be bound by you to-day.

PERIPHIANES
But I don’t choose; I shan’t bind them.

APAECIDES
to PERIPHANES . He’s preparing to throw a dragnet over you; he’s framing some plan, I know not what.

EPIDICUS
You are causing delay to yourself, while I stand unbound; bind them, I tell you, bind them together.

PERIPHIANES
But I choose rather to question you unbound.

EPIDICUS
But you shall know nothing.

PERIPHIANES

turning to APÆCIDES . What am I to do?

APAECIDES
What are you to do? Let him be complied with.

EPIDICUS
You are a worthy person, Apæcides.

PERIPHIANES
Hold out your hands then.

EPIDICUS
holding out his hands . They don't at all object; bind them fast together too. Don't be afraid. *PERIPHANES binds his hands.* I'm submissive. When the job is done, then pronounce your judgment.

PERIPHIANES
There, that is good.

EPIDICUS
Now then, to the point, with your enquiries of me; ask me what you please.

PERIPHIANES
In the first place, with what assurance did you presume to say that she who was bought the day before yesterday was my daughter?

EPIDICUS
I chose to; on that assurance.

PERIPHIANES
Do you say so? You chose to?

EPIDICUS
I do say so. Even lay me a wager that she is not the daughter ——

PERIPHIANES
A woman whom the mother declares she doesn't know?

EPIDICUS
Then, if she isn't the daughter of her mother, make me a bet about it, my didrachm to your talent.

PERIPHIANES
Why, that's a mere catch. But who is this woman?

EPIDICUS
The mistress of your son, that you may know the whole matter.

PERIPHIANES
Did I not give you the thirty minæ for my daughter?

EPIDICUS
I confess that they were given, and that with that money I purchased this Music-girl, your son's mistress, instead of your daughter. As to those thirty minæ, in fact, I imposed upon you.

PERIPHIANES
For what reason did you play a trick upon me about that hired Music-girl?

EPIDICUS
I' faith, I really did do it, and I think it was rightly done.

PERIPHIANES
In the last place, what has been done with the silver I gave you?

EPIDICUS
I'll tell you; I gave it to a person neither bad nor yet good — your son Stratippocles.

PERIPHIANES
Why did you dare to give it him?

EPIDICUS
Because it pleased me.

PERIPHIANES
stamping . Plague on it! what insolence is this?

EPIDICUS
Am I to be bawled at just as if I were a slave?

PERIPHIANES
ironically . As you are a free man, I rejoice.

EPIDICUS
I have deserved to become so.

PERIPHIANES
You — deserved?

EPIDICUS
Go look in-doors; I'll let you know that this is the truth.

PERIPHIANES
What's the matter?

EPIDICUS
The thing itself will tell you so at once. Only do go in-doors.

PERIPHIANES
Aye, aye! this is not without its meaning. Do you keep an eye on him, Apæcides. *Goes into his house.*

APAECIDES
What's the meaning of this, Epidicus?

EPIDICUS
I' faith, it's with the greatest injustice that I'm standing here bound, through whose aid his daughter has been discovered to-day.

APAECIDES
Do you say that you have found his daughter?

EPIDICUS

I have found her, and she is at home. But how hard it is, when, for services done, you reap a harvest of evil.

APAECIDES
What, her whom this day we've both been weary with seeking throughout the city?

EPIDICUS
I'm weary with finding, you weary with seeking. *from the house.*

PERIPHIANES
at the door, to those within . Why do you entreat me thus earnestly in his behalf? For I find that he does deserve that I should be pleased to act according to his deserts. *To EPIDICUS.* Hold out your hands, you, that I may unbind them.

EPIDICUS
Don't you touch them.

PERIPHIANES
But do you present them to me.

EPIDICUS
I don't choose.

PERIPHIANES
You don't do right.

EPIDICUS
Upon my faith, I'll never allow myself to be unbound this day, unless you give me satisfaction.

PERIPHIANES
You ask what's very fair and very just. Shoes, a tunic, and a cloak I'll give you.

EPIDICUS
What next, after that?

PERIPHIANES
Your freedom.

EPIDICUS
But after that? There's need for a new-made freed-man to pick a bit.

PERIPHIANES
It shall be given; I'll find you food.

EPIDICUS
On my word, never this day shall you release me, unless you beg my pardon.

PERIPHIANES
I do entreat you, Epidicus, to forgive me, if unawares in fault I've done anything wrong. But by way of return for this matter, be a free man.

EPIDICUS
Against my inclination do I grant you this pardon, but I'm compelled by necessity. Unbind them then, if you choose. *He holds out his hands, which are unbound by PERIPHANES, and they go into his house. coming forward.*

This is that man who by his roguery has gained his freedom. Clap your hands, and fare you well! Stretch your loins, and rise from your seats.

MENAECHMI

Translated by Henry Thomas Riley

Considered by some to be Plautus' most accomplished drama, *Menaechmi* is a comedy about mistaken identity, involving a set of twins, Menaechmus of Epidamnus and Menaechmus of Syracuse. It incorporates various Roman stock characters including the parasite, the courtesan, the cunning slave, the domineering wife, the doddering father-in-law and the quack doctor. As with most of Plautus' plays, much of the dialogue was in fact sung.

The plot introduces Moschus' twin sons, Menaechmus and Sosicles. Moschus decides to take only one of the twins, Menaechmus, with him on a business trip, while the twins are still young. During the trip, Menaechmus is abducted and adopted by a businessman that lives in Epidamnus, separating the twins. Their father dies of sorrow and their grandfather changes Sosicles' name to Menaechmus (i.e., Menaechmus of Syracuse). When the twins are grown to manhood, Menaechmus of Syracuse sets out in search of his brother. He arrives in Epidamnus, unaware that his twin brother is there also.

The play was a major source for William Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors*, which was subsequently adapted for the musical theatre by Rodgers and Hart in *The Boys from Syracuse*. A similar line of influence was Carlo Goldoni's 1747 play *I due gemelli veneziani* (The Two Venetian twins) (also adapted as *The Venetian Twins* in 1979).

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THE SUBJECT.

MOSCHUS, a merchant of Syracuse, had two twin sons who exactly resembled each other. One of these, whose name was Menaechmus, when a child, accompanied his father to Tarentum, at which place he was stolen and carried away to Epidamnus, where in course of time he has married a wealthy wife. Disagreements, however, arising with her, he forms an acquaintance with the Courtesan Erotium, and is in the habit of presenting her with clothes and jewels which he pilfers from his wife. The original name of the other twin-brother was Sosicles, but on the loss of Menaechmus, the latter name has been substituted by their grandfather for Sosicles, in remembrance of the lost child. Menaechmus Sosicles, on growing to manhood, determines to seek his lost brother. Having wandered for six years, lie arrives at Epidamnus, attended by his servant, Messenio. In consequence of his resemblance to his brother, many curious and laughable mistakes happen between him and the Courtesan Erotium, the wife of Menaechmus of Epidamnus, the Cook Cylindrus, the Parasite Peniculus, the father-in-law of Menaechmus of Epidamnus, and lastly Messenio himself. At length, through the agency of the latter, the brothers recognize each other; on which Messenio receives his liberty, and Menaechmus of Epidamnus resolves to make sale of his possessions and to return to Syracuse, his native place.

THE ACROSTIC ARGUMENT.

[Supposed to have been written by Priscian the Grammarian.]

A SICILIAN merchant (Mercator) who had two sons, on one being stolen from him (Ei), ended his life. As a name (Nomen) for him who is at home, his paternal grandfather (Avus) gives him that of Menaechmus instead of Sosicles. And (Et) he, as soon as he is grown up, goes to seek his brother about (Circum) all countries. At last he comes to Epidamnus; hither (Huc) the one that was stoien has been carried. All think that the stranger, Menaechmus (Menaechmum), is their fellow-citizen, and address him (Eum) as such: Courtesan, wife, and father-in-law. There (Ibi) at last the brothers mutually recognize each other.

THE PROLOGUE.

Prologus

In the first place now, Spectators, at the commencement, do I wish health and happiness to myself and to you.I bring you Plautus, with my tongue, not with my hand: I beg that you will receive him with favouring ears. Now learn the argument, and give your attention; in as few words as possible will I be brief. And, in fact, this subject is a Greek one; still, it is not an Attic, but a Sicilian one. But in their Comedies the poets do this; they feign that all the business takes place at Athens, in order that it may appear the more Grecian to you. I will not tell you that this matter happened anywhere except where it is said to have happened. This has been my preface to the subject of this play. Now will I give the subject, meted out to you, not in a measure, nor yet in a threefold measure, but in the granary itself; so great is my heartiness in telling you the plot.

There was a certain aged man, a merchant at Syracuse; to him two sons were born, twins, children so like in appearance that their own foster-mother, who gave the breast, was not able to distinguish them, nor even the mother herself who had given them birth; as a person, indeed, informed me who had seen the children; I never saw them, let no one of you fancy so. After the children were now seven years old, the father freighted a large ship with much merchandize. The father put one of the twins on board the ship, and took him away, together with himself, to traffic at Tarentum; the other one he left with his mother at home. By accident, there were games at Tarentum when he came there: many persons, as generally happens at the games, had met together; the child strayed away there from his father among the people. A certain merchant of Epidamnus was there; he picked up the child, and carried it away to Epidamnus. But its father, after he had lost the child, took it heavily to heart, and through grief at it he died a few days after at Tarentum. Now, after news reached the grandfather of the children at home about this matter, how that one of the children had been stolen, the grandfather changed the name of that other twin. So much did he love that one which had

been stolen, that he gave his name to the one that was at home. That you may not mistake hereafter, I tell you then this beforehand; the name of both the twin-brothers is the same. He gave the same name of Menaechmus to this one as the other had; and by the same name the grandfather himself was called. I remember his name the more easily for the reason that I saw him cried with much noise. Now must I speed back on foot to Epidamnus, that I may exactly disclose this matter to you. If any one of you wishes anything to be transacted for him at Epidamnus, command me boldly and speak out; but on these terms, that he give me the means by which it may be transacted for him. For unless a person gives the money, he will be mistaken; *in a lower tone* except that he who does give it will be very much more mistaken. But I have returned to that place whence I set forth, and yet I am standing in the self-same spot. This person of Epidamnus, whom I mentioned just now, that stole that other twin child, had no children, except his wealth. He adopted as his son the child so carried off, and gave him a well-portioned wife, and made him his heir when he himself died. For as, by chance, he was going into the country, when it had rained heavily, entering, not far from the city, a rapid stream, in its rapidity it threw the ravisher of the child off his legs; and hurried the man away to great and grievous destruction. And so a very large fortune fell to that youth. Here *pointing to the house* does the stolen twin now dwell. Now that twin, who dwells at Syracuse, has come this day to Epidamnus with his servant to make enquiry for this own twin-brother of his. This is the city of Epidamnus while this play is acting; when another shall be acted, it will become another town; just as our companies, too, are wont to be shifted about. The same person now acts the procurer, now the youth, now the old man, the pauper, the beggar, the king, the parasite, the soothsayer ...

ACT I.

Enter PENICULUS.

PENICULUS
The young men have given me the name of Peniculus, for this reason, because when I eat, I wipe the tables clean. ... The persons who bind captives with chains, and who put fetters upon runaway slaves, act very foolishly, in my opinion at least. For if bad usage is added to his misfortune for a wretched man, the greater is his inclination to run away and to do amiss. For by some means or other do they release themselves from the chains; while thus fettered, they either wear away a link with a file, or else with a stone they knock out the nail; 'tis a mere trifle this. He whom you wish to keep securely that he may not run away, with meat and with drink ought he to be chained; do you bind down the mouth of a man to a full table. So long as you give him what to eat and what to drink at his own pleasure in abundance every day, i' faith he'll never run away, even if he has committed an offence that's capital; easily will you secure him so long as you shall bind him with such chains. So very supple are these chains of food, the more you stretch them so much the more tightly do they bind. But now I'm going directly to Menaechmus; whither for this long time I have been sentenced, thither of my own accord I am going, that he may enchain me. For, by my troth, this man does not nourish persons, but he quite rears and reinvigorates them; no one administers medicine more agreably. Such is this young man; himself with a very well-stocked larder, he gives dinners fit for Ceres; so does he heap the tables up, and piles so vast of dishes does he arrange, you must stand on your couch if you wish for anything at the top. But I have now had an interval these many days, while I've been lording it at home all along together with my dear ones; — for nothing do I eat or purchase but what it is most dear. But inasmuch as dear ones, when they are provided, are in the habit of forsaking us, I am now paying him a visit. But his door is opening; and see, 1 perceive Menaechmus himself; he is coming out of doors.

Enter MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus, from his house.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
speaking at the door to his WIFE within . Unless you were worthless, unless you were foolish, unless you were stark wild and an idiot, that which you see is disagreable to your husband, you would deem to be so to yourself as well. Moreover, if after this day you do any such thing to me, I'll force you, a divorced woman, turned out of my doors to go visit your father. For as often as I wish to go out of the house, you are detaining me, calling me back, asking me questions; whither I am going, what matter I am about, what business I am transacting, what I am wanting, what I am bringing, what I have been doing out of doors? I've surely brought home a custom-house officer as my wife; so much am I obliged to disclose all my business, whatever I have done and am doing. I've had you hitherto indulged too much. Now, therefore, I'll tell you how I am about to act. Since I find you handsomely in maids, provisions, wool, gold trinkets, garments, and purple, and you are wanting in nought, you'll beware of a mischief if you're wise; you'll leave off watching your husband. *In a lower voice.* And therefore, that you mayn't be watching me in vain, for your pains I shall find me a mistress to-day, and invite her to dinner somewhere out of doors.

PENICULUS
apart . This fellow pretends that he's upbraiding his wife, but he's addressing myself; for if he does dine out of doors, he really is punishing me, not his wife.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
to himself . Hurra! I' troth, by my taunts I've driven my wife from the door at last. Where now are your intriguing husbands? Why do they hesitate, all returning thanks, to bring presents to me who have fought so gallantly? This mantle of my wife's *taking it from under his cloak* I've just now stolen from in-doors, and I'm taking it to my mistress. This way it's proper for a clever trick to be played this knowing husband-watcher. This is a becoming action, this is right, this is skilful, this is done in workman-like style; inasmuch as at my

own risk I've taken this from my plague, this same shall be carried off to destruction. With the safety of my allies I've gained a booty from the foe.

PENICULUS
aloud, at a distance . Harkye! young man; pray what share have I in that booty?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I'm undone; I've fallen into an ambuscade.

PENICULUS
Say a safeguard rather. Don't be afraid.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
What person's this?

PENICULUS
'Tis I. *Coming up to him.*

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
O my convenient friend — O my ready occasion, save you.

PENICULUS
And save you. *they shake hands.*

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
What are you about?

PENICULUS
Holding my good Genius in my right hand.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
You couldn't have come to me more à propos than you have come.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I'm in the habit of doing so; I understand all the points of ready occasion.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Would you like to be witness of a brilliant exploit?

PENICULUS
What cook has cooked it? I shall know at once if he has made any mistake, when I see the remnants..

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Tell me — did you ever see a picture painted on a wall, where the eagle is carrying off Ganymede, or Venus Adonis?

PENICULUS
Many a time. But what are these pictures to me?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Come, look at me. Do I at all bear any resemblance to them?

PENICULUS
What's this garb of yours?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Pronounce me to be a very clever fellow.

PENICULUS
Where are we to feed?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Only do you say that which I requested you.

PENICULUS
Well, I do say so; very clever fellow.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
And don't you venture to add anything of your own to it?

PENICULUS
— And very pleasant fellow.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.

Go on.

PENICULUS
I' faith, I really can't go on, unless I know for what reason. You've had a fall-out with your wife; on that ground am I the more strongly on my guards against you.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
While you are interrupting me, you are delaying yourself.

PENICULUS
Knock out my only eye, Menaechmus, if I speak one word but what you bid me.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
... where, unknown to my wife, we will erect the funeral pile ... and let us consume this day upon it.

PENICULUS
Well, come then, since you request what's fair, how soon am I to set fire to the pile? Why really, the day's half dead already down to its navel.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Come this way from the door.

PENICULUS
Be it so. *Moves from the door.*

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Come still more this way.

PENICULUS
Very well. *Moves.*

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus
Even still, step aside boldly from the lioness's den.

PENICULUS
still moving . Well done; by my troth, as I fancy, you really would bean excellent charioteers.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Why so?

PENICULUS
That your wife mayn't follow you, you are looking back ever and anon.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
But what say you?

PENICULUS
What, I? Why, whatever you choose, that same do I say, and that same do I deny.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Could you make any conjecture at all from the smell, if perchance you were to take a smell at something?

PENICULUS
Were the college of Augurs summoned ...

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
holds out the skirt of the mantle . Come then, take a sniff at this mantle that I'm holding. What does it smell of? Do you decline?

PENICULUS
It's as well to smell the top of a woman's garment; for at this other place the nose is offended with an odour that can't be washed out.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
holding another part . Take a smell here then, Peniculus, as you are so daintily nice.

PENICULUS

Very well. *He smells it.*

MENAECHMUS
How now? What does it smell of? Answer me.

PENICULUS
Theft, a mistress, and a breakfast. To you ...

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
You have spoken out ... now it shall be taken to this mistress of mine, the Courtesan Erotium. I'll order a breakfast at once to be got ready, for me, you, and her; then will we booze away even to the morrow's morning star.

PENICULUS
Capital. You've spoken out distinctly. Am I to knock at the door then?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Knock — or hold, rather.

PENICULUS
You've removed the goblet a full mile by that.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Knock gently.

PENICULUS
You're afraid, I think, that the doors are made of Samian crockery. *Goes to knock.*

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Hold, prithee, hold, i' faith; see, she's coming out herself. *The door of EROTIUM'S house is opened.* Ha you behold the sun, is it not quite darkened in comparison with the bright rays of her person.

Enter EROTIUM, from her house.

EROTIUM
My life, Menaechmus, save you.

PENICULUS
And what for me?

EROTIUM
You are out of my number.

PENICULUS
... that same thing is wont to be done for the other supernumeraries of the legion.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I would order a skirmish to be got ready there at your house for me to-day.

EROTIUM
To-day it shall be done.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
In that skirmish we two shall drink. Him shall you choose that shall be found there the better warrior with the goblet; do you make up your mind with which of the two you'll pass this night. How much, my love, when I look upon you, do I hate my wife.

EROTIUM
Meantime, however, you cannot help being wrapped in something of hers. What's this? *Takes hold of the mantle.*

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
taking it off . 'Tis a new dress for you, and a spoil from my wife, my rosebud.

EROTIUM
You have a ready way of prevailing, so as to be superior in my eyes to any one of those that pay me suit. *Embraces him.*

PENICULUS
aside . The harlot's coaxing in the meantime, while she's looking out what to plunder ... *to EROTLUM* for if you really loved him, by this his nose ought to have been off with your teething him..

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Take hold of this, Peniculus: I wish to dedicate the spoil that I've vowed.

PENICULUS
Give it me. *Holds it while MENAECHMUS puts it on.* But, i' faith, prithee, do dance afterwards with the mantle on in this way.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I — dance? I' faith, you're not in your senses.

PENICULUS
Are you or I the most? If you won't dance, then take it off.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
to EROTIUM . At a great risk have I stolen this to-day. In my opinion, indeed, Hercules didn't ever carry off the belt from Hippolyta with danger as great. Take this for yourself *he takes it off, and gives her the mantle* , since you are the only one alive that's compliant with my humours.

EROTIUM
With such feelings 'tis proper that real lovers should be animated.

PENICULUS
aside . Those, indeed, who are making haste to bring themselves down to beggary.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I purchased that for my wife a year since at the price of four minae.

PENICULUS
aside . The four minae are clearly gone for ever, as the account now

stands.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Do you know what I wish you to attend to?

EROTIUM
I don't know; but I'll attend to whatever you do wish.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Order a breakfast, then, to be provided for us three at your house, and some dainties to be purchased at the market; kernels of boars' neck, or bacon off the gammon, or pig's head, or something in that way, which, when cooked and placed on table before me, may promote an appetite like a kite's: and-forthwith ——

EROTIUM
I' faith, I will.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
We're going to the Forum: we shall be here just now. While it's cooking, we'll take a whet in the meantime.

EROTIUM
Come when you like, the things shall be ready.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Only make haste, then. Do you follow me *to PENICULUS* .

PENICULUS
By my troth, I certainly shall keep an eye on you, and follow you. I wouldn't take the wealth of the Gods to lose you this day. *(Exeunt MENAECHMUS and PENICULUS.)*

EROTIUM
speaking at the door of her house . Call Cylindrus, the cook, out of doors this moment from within.

Enter CYLINDRUS, from the house.

EROTIUM
Take a hand-basket and some money. See, you have three didrachmns here. *Giving him money.* .

CYLINDRUS
I have so.

EROTIUM
Go and bring some provisions, see that there's enough for three; let it be neither deficient nor overmuch.

CYLINDRUS
What sort of persons are these to be?

EROTIUM
Myself, Menaechmus, and his Parasite.

CYLINDRUS
Then these make ten, for the Parasite easily performs the duty of eight persons.

EROTIUM
I've now told you the guests; do you take care of the rest.

CYLINDRUS
Very well. It's cooked already; bid them go and take their places.

EROTIUM
Make haste back.

CYLINDRUS
I'll be here directly. *(Exit CYLINDRUS, and EROTIUM goes into her house.)*

ACT II.

Enter MENAECHMUS SOSICLES and MESSENIO.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
There's no greater pleasure to voyagers, in my notion, Messenio, than at the moment when from sea they espy the land afar.

MESSENIO
There is a greater, I'll say it without subterfuge, — if on your arrival you see the land that is your own. But, prithee, why are we now come to Epidamnus? Why, like the sea, are we going round all the islands?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
To seek for my own twin-brother born?

MESSENIO
Why, what end is there to be of searching for him? This is the sixth year that we've devoted our attention to this business. We have been already carried round the Istrians, the Hispanians, the Massilians, the Illyrians, all the Upper Adriatic Sea, and foreign Greece, and all the shores of Italy, wherever the sea reaches them. If you had been searching for a needle, I do believe you would, long ere this, have found the needle, if it were visible. Among the living are we seeking a person that's dead; for long ago should we have found him if he had been alive.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
For that reason I am looking for a person to give me that information for certain, who can say that he knows that he really is dead; after that I shall never take any trouble in seeking further. But otherwise I shall never, while I'm alive, desist; I know how dear he is to my heart.

MESSENIO
You are seeking a knot in a bulrush. Why don't we return homeward

hence, unless we are to write a history?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Have done with your witty sayings, and be on your guard against a mischief. Don't you be troublesome; this matter shan't be done at your bidding.

MESSENIO
aside . Aye, aye; by that same expression do I rest assured that I'm a slave; he couldn't in a few words have said more in a plain-spoken way. But still I can't restrain myself from speaking. *Aloud.* Do you hear, Menaechmus? When I look in the purse, I find, i' faith, we're only equipped for our journey like summer travellers. By my troth, I guess, if you don't be returning home, while you're seeking your twin-brother, you'll surely be groaning, when you have nothing left. For such is this race of people; among the men of Epidamnus there are debauchees and very great drinkers; swindlers besides, and many wheedlers are living in this city; then the women in the harlot line are said nowhere in the world to be more captivating. The name of Epidamnus was given to this city for the very reason, because hardly any person sojourns here without some damnable mishaps.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
I'll guard against that. Just give me the purse this way.

MESSENIO
What do you want with it?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
I'm apprehensive then about yourself, from your expressions.

MESSENIO
Why are you apprehensive?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Lest you should cause me some damnable mishap in Epidamnus. You are a great admirer of the women, Messenio, and I'm a passionate man, of an unmanageable disposition; of both these things

will I have a care, when I've got the money, that you shall not commit a fault, and that I shall not be in a passion with you.

MESSENIO
giving him the purse . Take and keep it; with all my heart you may do so.

Enter CYLINDRUS, with a basket of provisions.

CYLINDRUS
I've catered well, and to my mind. I'll set a good breakfast before the breakfasters. But see, I perceive Menaechmus. Woe to my back; the guests are now already walking before the door, before I've returned with the provisions. I'll go and accost him. Save you, Menaechmus.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
The Gods bless you, whoever you are. ...

CYLINDRUS
... who I am?

MESSENIO
I' faith, not I, indeed.

CYLINDRUS
Where are the other guests?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
What guests are you enquiring about?

CYLINDRUS
Your Parasite.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
My Parasite? Surely this fellow's deranged.

MESSENIO
Didn't I tell you that there were many swindlers here?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
What Parasite of mine, young man, are you enquiring about?

CYLINDRUS
Peniculus.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
... Where is my ... ?

MESSENIO
See, I've got your sponge [Peniculus] all safe in the wallet.

CYLINDRUS
Menaechmus, you've come here too soon for breakfast; I'm but now returning with the provisions.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Answer me this, young man: at what price do pigs sell here, unblemished ones, for sacrifice?

CYLINDRUS
At a didrachm a-piece.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
holding out his hand . Receive, then, a didrachm of me; bid a sacrifice be made for you at my expense; for, by my faith, I really am sure in very truth that you are deranged, who are annoying me, a person that's a stranger, whoever you are.

CYLINDRUS
I am Cylindrus; don't you know my name?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Whether you are Cylindrus or Caliendrus, confound you. I don't know you, and, in fact, I don't want to know you.

CYLINDRUS
Well, your name, however, is Menaechmus, that I do know.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
You speak like a sane person when you call me by my name. But where have you known me?

CYLINDRUS
Where have I known you, you who have Erotium, this mistress of mine *pointing to the house* , for your lady?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
By my troth, I have not, nor do I know yourself what person you are.

CYLINDRUS
Not know who I am, who have many a time filled the cups for your own self at our house, when you've been drinking?

MESSENIO
Woe to me, that I've got nothing with which to break this fellow's head.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Are you in the habit of filling the cups for me, who, before this day, have never beheld Epidamnus, nor been there?

CYLINDRUS
Do you deny it?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Upon my honor,, I decidedly do deny it.

CYLINDRUS
Don't you live in that house? *Pointing to the house of MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.*

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
May the Gods send to perdition those that live there.

CYLINDRUS
Surely, this fellow's mad, who is thus uttering curses against his own

self. Do you hear, Menaechmus?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
What do you want?

CYLINDRUS
If you take my advice, that didrachm, which you just now promised to give me — you would order, if you were wise, a pig to be procured with it for yourself. For, i' faith, you really for sure are not in your senses, Menaechmus, who are now uttering curses against your own self.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Alas! By my faith, a very silly fellow, and an annoyance to me.

CYLINDRUS
to MESSENIO . He's in the habit of often joking with me in this fashion. How very droll he is, when his wife isn't present. How say you —— ?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
What do you mean, you rascal?

CYLINDRUS
pointing to the basket . Has this that you see been provided in sufficient quantity for three persons, or am I to provide still more for yourself and the Parasite and the lady?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
What ladies — what Parasites are you talking about?

MESSENIO
What, you villain, urges you to be an annoyance to him?

CYLINDRUS
Pray what business have you with me? I don't know you; I'm talking to this person, whom I do know.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
By my troth, you are not a person in his right senses, that I know for sure.

CYLINDRUS
I'll have these things cooked directly; there shall be no delay. Don't you be going after this anywhere at a distance from the house. Do you want anything?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
You to go to utter and extreme perdition.

CYLINDRUS
I' faith, 'twere better for you to go in-doors at once and take your place, while I'm subjecting these things to the strength of the fire. I'll go in-doors now, and tell Erotium that you are standing here, that she may fetch you away hence, rather than you be standing here out of doors. *He goes into the house.*

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Is he gone then? He is gone. By my faith, I find by experience that your words are not untrue.

MESSENIO
Do you only be on your guard; for I do believe that some woman in the harlot line is living here, as, in fact. this madman said, who has just gone away from here.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
But I wonder how he came to know my name.

MESSENIO
I' faith, 'tis far from surprising: courtesans have this custom; they send servant-boys and servant-girls down to the harbour; if any foreign ship comes into port, they enquire of what country it is, and what its name is; after that, at once they set themselves to work, and fasten themselves upon him; if they inveigle him, they send him home a ruined man. Now in this harbour there stands a piratical craft,

against which I really think that we must be on our guard.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
I' troth, you really counsel aright.

MESSENIO
Then, in fine, shall I be sure that I've counselled aright, if you are rightly on your guard.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Be silent for a moment, then; for the door makes a noise. Let's see who's coming out from there.

MESSENIO
Meanwhile, I'll lay this down. *He puts down the wallet.* Do you keep watch upon these things, if you please, you sailors.

Enter EROTIUM from her house.

EROTIUM
speacking to her SERVANTS within . Leave the door ajar thus; begone. I don't want it shut: prepare, attend, and provide within; what is requisite, let it be done. Lay down the couches, burn the perfumes; neatness, that is the charm for the minds of lovers. Our agreableness is for the lover's loss, for our own gain. *To herself.* But where is he whom the Cook said was in front of the house? O, I see him there — one who is of service to me, and who profits me very much. And right willingly is such usage shown to him, as he deserves to be of especial importance in my house. Now I'll accost him; I'll address him of my own accord. *To MENAECHMUS.* My dear life, it seems wonderful to me that you are standing here out of doors, for whom the door is wide open, more so than your own house, inasmuch as this house is at your service. Everything's ready as you requested and as you desired; nor have you now any delay indoors. The breakfast, as you ordered, is prepared here; when you please, you may go and take your place.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES

To whom is this woman addressing herself?

EROTIUM
Why, I'm talking to yourself.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
What business have I ever had with you, or have I now?

EROTIUM
Troth, inasmuch as Venus has willed that you singly above all I should exalt; and that not without your deserving it. For, by my faith, you alone make me, by your kindnesses, to be thriving.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
For sure this woman is either mad or drunk, Messemo, that addresses me, a person whom she knows not in so familiar a way.

MESSENIO
Didn't I say that these things are in the habit of occurring here? The leaves are falling now; in comparison with this, if we shall be here for three days, the trees will be tumbling upon you. For to such a degree are all these Courtesans wheedlers out of one's money. But only let me address her. Harkye, woman, I'm speaking to you.

EROTIUM
What's the matter?

MESSENIO
Where have you yourself known this person?

EROTIUM
In that same place where he has known me for this long time, in Epidamnus.

MESSENIO
In Epidamnus? A man who, until this day, has never put a foot here inside of this city.

EROTIUM
Heyday! You are making fun, my dear Menaechmus. But, prithee, why not go in? There, it will be more suitable for you.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
I' faith, this woman really does address me rightly by my name. I wonder very much what's the meaning of this business.

MESSENIO
aside . That purse that you are carrying has been smelt out by her.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
aside . I' faith, and rightly have you put me in mind. Take it, then; I'll know now whether she loves myself or the purse most. *Gives him the purse.*

EROTIUM
Let's go in the house to breakfast.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
You invite me kindly; so far, my thanks.

EROTIUM
Why then did you bid me a while since prepare a breakfast for you?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
I, bid you prepare?

EROTIUM
Certainly you did, for yourself and your Parasite.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
A plague, what Parasite? Surely this woman isn't quite right in her senses.

EROTIUM
Peniculus.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Who is this Peniculus The one with which the shoes are wiped clean?

EROTIUM
Him, I mean, who came with you a while ago, when you brought me the mantle which you purloined from your wife.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
What do you mean? I, gave you a mantle, which I purloined from my wife? Are you in your senses? Surely this woman dreams standing, after the manner of a gelding.

EROTIUM
Why does it please you to hold me in ridicule, and to deny to me things that have been done by you?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Tell me what it is that I deny after having done it?

EROTIUM
That you to-day gave me your wife's mantle.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Even still do I deny it. Indeed, I never had a wife, nor have I one; nor have I ever set my foot here within the city gate since I was born. I breakfasted on board ship; thence did I come this way, and here I met you.

EROTIUM
See that now; I'm undone, wretched creature that I am! What ship are you now telling me about?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
A wooden one, weather-beaten full oft, cracked full oft, many a time thumped with mallets. Just as the implements of the furrier; so peg is close to peg.

EROTIUM

Now, prithee, do leave off making fun of me, and step this way with me.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
... for, madam, you are looking for some other person, I know not whom, not me.

EROTIUM
Don't I know you, Menaechmus, the son of your father Moschus, who are said to have been born in Sicily, at Syracuse, where King Agathocles reigned, and after him Pintia, the third Liparo, who at his death left the kingdom to Hiero — which Hiero is now king?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
You say, madam, what is not untrue.

MESSENIO
By Jupiter, hasn't this woman come from there, who knows you so readily? ...

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
apart . Troth, I think she must not be denied.

MESSENIO
apart . Don't you do it. You are undone, if you enter inside her threshold.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
apart . But you only hold your tongue ... The matter goes on well. I shall assent to the woman, whatever she shall say, if I can get some entertainment. Just now, madam *speaking to her in a low voice* , I contradicted you not undesignedly; I was afraid of that fellow, lest he might carry word to my wife about the mantle and the breakfast. Now, when you please, let's go in-doors.

EROTIUM
Are you going to wait for the Parasite as well?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
I'm neither going to wait for him, nor do I care a straw for him, nor, if he should come, do I want him to be admitted in-doors.

EROTIUM
By my faith, I shall do that not at all reluctantly. But do you know what I beg you to do?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Only command me what you will.

EROTIUM
For you to take that mantle which you gave me just now to the embroiderer's, that it may be trimmed again, and that some work may be added which I want.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
I' faith, you say what's right; in such a way shall it be disguised that my wife shan't know that you are wearing it, if she should see you in the street.

EROTIUM
Then take it away with you just now, when you go away.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
By all means.

EROTIUM
Let's go in-doors. *Goes into her house.*

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
I'll follow you this instant; I only wish to speak to this person. So, there! Messenio, step to me this way.

MESSENIO
What's the matter?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES

Listen.

MESSENIO
What need for it?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
There is need, I know what you'll say to me ——

MESSENIO
So much the worse.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Hold your tongue ... I've got some spoil; thus much of the business have I begun upon. Go, and, as quick as you can, take away those peoples at once to an inn. Then do you take care to come and meet me before sunset.

MESSENIO
Don't you know that these people are harlots, master?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Hold your tongue, I say, and go you away from here. It will cost me pain, not you, if I do anything here that's foolish. This woman is silly and inexperienced. So far as I've perceived just now, there's some spoil for us here. *He goes into the house of EROTIUM.*

MESSENIO
I'm undone. Are you going away then? He is certainly ruined; the piratical craft is now leading the boat straight to destruction. But I'm an unreasonable fellow to wish to rule my master; he bought me to obey his orders, not to be his commander. *To the ATTENDANTS.* Follow me, that, as I'm ordered, I may come in good time to meet my master.

ACT III.

Enter PENICULUS.

PENICULUS
More than thirty years have I been born yet during that time I never did any more mischievous or more evil trick than this day, when, to my misfortune, I thrust myself into the midst of the assembly. while I was gaping about there, Menaechmus stole away from me, and went, I suppose, to his mistress, and didn't want to take me. May all the Divinities confound that man who first mischievously devised the holding of an assembly, which keeps men thus engaged. By my troth, is it not fitting that men who are disengaged should be chosen for that purpose? These, when they are cited, if they are not present, let the officers exact the fine forthwith ... the senate ... Abundance of men are there who every day eat their victuals alone, who have no business, who are neither invited nor invite to feast; these ought to give their attendance at the assembly and the law-courts. If so it had been, this say I shouldn't have lost my breakfast; to which I deemed myself as much accustomed, as to see myself alive. I'll go; even yet the hope of the scraps comforts my mind. But why do I see Menaechmus here? He's coming out of doors with a chaplet on? The banquet is removed; i' faith, I come just in time to meet him. I'll watch the fellow, what he's about, then I'll go and accost him. *He steps aside.*

Enter MENAECHMUS SOSICLES, from the house of EROTIUM, with the mantle on.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
speaking to EROTIUM within . Can't you rest content, if this day I bring it you back in good time, nicely and properly trimmed? I'll cause you to say it isn't itself, so much shall it be disguised.

PENICULUS
apart . He's carrying the mantle to the embroiderer's, the breakfast finished and the wine drunk up, and the Parasite shut out of doors.

By my troth, I'm not the person that I am, if I don't handsomely avenge this injury and myself. 'Tis requisite I should watch ... I'll give something.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
to himself . O ye immortal Gods! on what man ever have you conferred more blessings in one day, who hoped for less? I've been breakfasting, drinking, feasting with a mistress; and I've carried off this mantle, of which she shall no more be owner after this day.

PENICULUS
Isn't he now talking about me, and my share of the repast? I can't well hear what he says.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
to himself . She says that I secretly gave her this, and that I stole it away from my wife. When I perceived that she was mistaken, at once I began to assent, as though I really had had acquaintanceship with her. Whatever the woman said, the same said I. What need of many words? I was never entertained at less expense.

PENICULUS
apart . I'll accost the fellow; for I quite long to have a row.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Who's this that's coming up towards me? *Takes off the mantle, and hides it.*

PENICULUS
What say you, you fellow lighter than a feather, most rascally and most abandoned — you disgraceful man — you cheat, and most worthless fellow? Why have I deserved this of you? For what reason should you ruin me? How you stole yourself away from me just now at the Forum. You've been performing the funeral of the breakfast in my absence. Why did you dare to do so, when I was entitled to it in an equal degree?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES

Young man, prithee, what business with me have you, who are thus purposely insulting a person whom you know not? Do you wish a punishment to be given you for your abuse?

PENICULUS
Do be quiet; by my faith, I discover that you've done that already indeed.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Answer me, young man, I beg; what is your name?

PENICULUS
Are you laughing at me, as well, as though you didn't know my name?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
By my troth, I never saw or knew you, that I'm aware of, before this day; but at all events, whoever you are, if you do what's right, you won't be an annoyance to me.

PENICULUS
Don't you know me?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
I shouldn't deny it if I did know you.

PENICULUS
Menaechmus, awake.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
I' troth, I really am awake, so far as I know.

PENICULUS
Don't you know your own Parasite?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Young man, I find that your headpiece isn't sound.

PENICULUS
Answer me; have you not purloined that mantle from your wife to-day, and given it to Erotium?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
I' faith I have no wife, nor have I given the mantle to Erotium, nor have I purloined it.

PENICULUS
Are you really in your senses? ... This matter's settled. Did I not see you coming out of doors clad in a mantle?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Woe to your head. Do you think that all people are effeminate rogues because you are one? Do you declare that I was clothed in a mantle?

PENICULUS
Troth, I really do.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Why don't you go where you are deserving to go, or else request yourself to be atoned for, you downright madman?

PENICULUS
By my troth, never shall any one prevail upon me not to tell your wife the whole matter now, just as it happened. All these insults shall be retorted upon yourself. I'll take care that you shan't have devoured the breakfast unpunished. *He goes into the house of MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.*

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
What's the meaning of this business? Why, Just as I see each person, do they all make fun of me in this way? But the door makes a noise.

Enter a MAID-SERVANT, from the house of EROTIUM.

MAID-SERVANT of Erotium.
Menaechmus, Erotium says that she entreats you much, that at the

same opportunity you'll take this to the goldsmith's, and add to it an ounce in weight of gold, and order the bracelet to be fashioned anew. *Gives him a bracelet.*

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Tell her that I'll attend both to this and anything else that she shall wish, if she wishes anything else attended to.

MAID-SERVANT of Erotium.
Do you know what this bracelet is?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
I don't know, unless it's of gold.

MAID-SERVANT of Erotium.
This is the same one that you once said that you had secretly stolen out of the closet from your wife.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
By my troth, 'twas never done.

MAID-SERVANT of Erotium.
Prithee, don't you remember it?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Not in the least.

MAID-SERVANT of Erotium.
Give it me back then, if you don't remember it. *Tries to take it.*

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Stop. *Pretends to examine the bracelet.* O yes, I really do remember it; it's the same, I believe, that I presented to her.

MAID-SERVANT of Erotium.
I' faith, it is the same.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES

Where are the clasps which I gave her together with them?

MAID-SERVANT of Erotium.
You never gave her any.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Why, faith, I gave them together with this ...

MAID-SERVANT of Erotium.
Shall I say that you'll attend to it?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Do say so; it shall be attended to. I'll take care that the mantle and the bracelet are brought back together.

MAID-SERVANT of Erotium.
My dear Menaechmus, do, pray, give me some earrings, the pendants to be made two didrachms in weight; that I may look on you with delight when you come to our house.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Be it so. Give me the gold; I'll find the price of the workmanship.

MAID-SERVANT of Erotium.
Give it yourself, please; at a future time I'll give it you back.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
No, give it yourself; at a future time I'll give it you twofold.

MAID-SERVANT of Erotium.
I haven't any.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
But when you have it, do you give it me, then.

MAID-SERVANT of Erotium.
Do you wish for aught?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES

Say that I'll attend to these things, *aside* to be sold as soon as they can, and for what they'll fetch. *The MAID-SERVANT goes into the house.* Has she now gone off in-doors? She's gone, and has shut the door. Surely all the Gods are favouring, amplifying, and prospering me. But why do I delay while opportunity and time are granted me to get away from these procurers' dens? Make haste, Menaechmus; pull foot and quicken your pace. I'll take off this chaplet, and throw it away on the left hand side *throws the chaplet down* , that, if they follow me, they may think I've gone in that direction. I'll go and meet my servant, if I can, that he may learn from me these blessings which the Gods confer upon me.

ACT IV.

Enter, from her house, the WIFE of MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus, followed by PENICULUS.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
And shall I allow myself to remain in wedlock here, when my husband secretly pilfers whatever's in the house, and carries it thence off to his mistress?

PENICULUS
Why don't you hold your peace? I'll let you now catch him in the fact; do you only follow me this way. *They go to the opposite side of the stage.* In a state of drunkenness, with a chaplet on, he was carrying the mantle to the embroiderer's, which he purloined from you at home to-day. But see, here is the chaplet which he had on. *Seeing the chaplet on the ground.* Now am I saying false? Aha, this way has he gone, if you wish to trace his footsteps. And, by my faith, see, here he comes on his way back most opportunely, but he isn't wearing the mantle.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
What now shall I do to him?

PENICULUS
The same as usual; abuse him.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
So I am resolved.

PENICULUS
Let's step aside this way watch him from ambush. *They retire on one side.*

Enter MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.

to himself . How we do practise a custom here that is very foolish and extremely troublesome, and how even those who are the most worthy and great do follow this habit: all wish their dependants to be many in number; whether they are deserving or undeserving, about that they don't enquire. Their property is more enquired about, than what the reputation of their clients is for honor. If any person is poor and not dishonest, he is considered worthless; but if a rich man is dishonest, he is considered a good client. Those who neither regard laws nor any good or justice at all, the same have zealous patrons. What has been entrusted to them, they deny to have been so entrusted; men full of litigation, rapacious, and fraudulent; who have acquired their property either by usury or by perjury; their whole pleasure is in litigation. When the day for trial is appointed, at the same time it is mentioned to their patrons, in order that they may plead for them, about what they have done amiss. Before the people, or at law before the Praetor, or before the Aedile, is the cause tried. Just so, this day, a certain dependant has kept me very much engaged, nor was it allowed me to do what I wished, or in company with whom I wished; so fast did he stick to me, so much did he detain me. Before the Aedile, in behalf of his doings, very many and very disgraceful, did I plead his cause; a compromise I obtained, obscure and perplexed — more than enough I said, and than I needed to say, that surety for him might end this litigation. What did he do? Well, what? He gave bail. And never did I at any time see any person more clearly detected; three very adverse witnesses against all his misdeeds were there. May all the Gods confound him, he has so spoilt this day for me; and myself as well, who ever this day beheld the Forum with my eyes. I ordered a breakfast to be prepared; my mistress is expecting me, I'm sure; as soon as ever I had the opportunity, I made haste immediately to leave the Forum. Now, I suppose, she's angry with me; the mantle, however, will appease her that I gave her, the one I took away to-day from my wife and carried to Erotium here.

PENICULUS
apart to the WIFE . What say you now?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
apart . That I'm unfortunately married to a worthless fellow.

PENICULUS
apart . Do you perfectly hear what he says?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
apart . Quite well.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
If I am wise, I shall be going hence in-doors, where it may be comfortable for me.

PENICULUS
coming forward Stop; on the contrary, it shall be uncomfortable.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
... she is very sorrowful; this doesn't quite please me, but I'll speak to her. Tell me, my wife, what is it amiss with you?

PENICULUS
to the WIFE . The pretty fellow's soothing you.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Can't you cease being annoying to me? Did I address you?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
turning away from MENAECHMUS . Take yourself off — away with your caresses from me. Do you persist in it?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Why are you offended with me?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
You ought to know.

PENICULUS
The rascal knows, but he pretends not to know.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Has any one of the servants done amiss? Do either the maid or the men-servants give you saucy answers? Speak out; it shan't be done with impunity.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
You are trifling.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Surely you are angry at some one of the domestics?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
You are trifling.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Are you angry with me at all events?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Now you are not trifling.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I' faith, I haven't done wrong in anything.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Ah! now you are trifling again.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Wife, what's the matter?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Do you ask me that?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Do you wish me to ask him? *To PENICULUS.* What's the matter?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
The mantle.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.

The mantle?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
A certain person has taken a mantle. *MENAECHMUS starts.*

PENICULUS
to MENAECHMUS . Why are you alarmed?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
For my part, I'm not alarmed at all — *aside* except about one thing; the mantle makes my face mantle.

PENICULUS
aside to MENAECHMUS . But as for me, you shouldn't have slily devoured the breakfast. *To the WIFE.* Go on against your husband.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
making signs to PENICULUS . Won't you hold your tongue?

PENICULUS
Faith, I really will not hold my tongue. *To the WIFE.* He's nodding to me not to speak.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
On my word, I really never did nod to you, or wink in any way.

PENICULUS
Nothing is more audacious than this man, who resolutely denies those things which you see.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
By Jupiter and all the Gods, I swear, wife, that I did not nod to him; isn't that enough for you?

PENICULUS
She now believes you about that matter; go back again there.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.

Go back where?

PENICULUS
Why, to the embroiderer, as I suppose. Go and bring the mantle back.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
What mantle is it?

PENICULUS
Now I hold my tongue, since he doesn't remember his own business.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Did you suppose that you could possibly commit these villanies unknown to me? By heavens, you have assuredly taken that away from me at a heavy usury; such is the return. *Shaking her fist.*

PENICULUS
Such is the return. Do you make haste to eat up the breakfast in my absence; and then in your drunkenness make fun of me, with your chaplet on, before the house.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
By all the powers, I have neither breakfasted, nor have I this day set foot inside of that house.

PENICULUS
Do you deny it?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
By my troth, I really do deny it.

PENICULUS
Nothing is there more audacious than this fellow. Did I not just now see you standing here before the house, with a chaplet of flowers on, when you were declaring that my headpiece wasn't sound, and declaring that you didn't know me, and saying that you were a foreigner?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
On the contrary, as some time since I parted with you, so I'm now returning home at last.

PENICULUS
I understand you. You didn't think it was in my power to take vengeance upon you; i' faith, I've told it all to your wife.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Told her what?

PENICULUS
I don't know; ask her own self.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
turning to his WIFE . What's this, wife? Pray, what has he been telling you? What is it? Why are you silent? Why don't you say what it is?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
As though you didn't know. I' faith, I certainly am a miserable woman.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Why are you a miserable woman? tell me.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Do you ask me?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Faith, I shouldn't ask you if I knew.

PENICULUS
O the wicked fellow; how he does dissemble. You cannot conceal it; she knows the matter thoroughly; by my faith, I've disclosed everything.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.

What is it?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Inasmuch as you are not at all ashamed, and don't wish to confess of your own accord, listen, and attend to this; I'll both let you know why I'm sorrowful, and what he has told me. My mantle has been purloined from me at home.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Mantle purloined from me?

PENICULUS
to the WIFE . D'you see how the rogue is catching you up? *To MENAECHMUS.* It was purloined from her, not from you; for certainly if it had been purloined from you, it would now be safe.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
to PENICULUS . I've nothing to do with you. But *to his WIFE* what is it you say?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
A mantle, I say, has been lost from home.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Who has stolen it?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I faith, he knows that, who took it away.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
What person was it?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
A certain Menaechmus.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
By my troth, 'twas villanously done. Who is this Menaechmus?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
You are he, I say.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
You.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Who accuses me?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I, myself.

PENICULUS
I, too; and you carried it off to Erotium here, your mistress.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I, gave it her?

PENICULUS
You, you, I say. Do you wish for an owl to be brought here, to say "you, you," continually to you? For we are now quite tired of it.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
By Jupiter and all the Gods, I swear, wife (and isn't that enough for you?), that I did not give it.

PENICULUS
Aye, and I, by all the powers, that we are telling no untruth.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
But I haven't given it away, but just only lent it to be made use of.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
But, i' faith, for my part, I don't lend either your scarf or your cloak out of the house, to any one, to be made use of. 'Tis fair that the

woman should lend out of the house the woman's apparel, the man the man's. But why don't you bring the mantle home again?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I'll have it brought back.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
For your own interest you'll do so, as I think; for you shall never enter the house to-day unless you bring the mantle with you. I'm going home.

PENICULUS
to the WIFE . What's there to be for me, who have given you this assistance?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Your assistance shall be repaid, when anything shall be purloined from your house. *The WIFE goes into the house.*

PENICULUS
Then, by my troth, that really will never be; for nothing have I at home to lose. May the Gods confound you, both husband and wife. I'll make haste to the Forum, for I see clearly that I've quite fallen out with this family. *(Exit.)*

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
My wife thinks that she does me an injury when she shuts me out of doors; as though I hadn't another better place to be admitted into. If I displease you, I must endure it; I shall please Erotium here, who won't be shutting me out of her house, but will be shutting me up in her house rather. Now I'll go; I'll beg her to give me back the mantle that I gave her a while since. I'll purchase another for her — a better one. Hallo! is any one the porter here? *Knocks at EROTIUM'S door.* Open here, and some one of you call Erotium before the door.

Enter EROTIUM, from her house.

EROTIUM

Who's enquiring for me here?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
One that's more of an enemy to his own self than to yourself.

EROTIUM
My dear Menaechmus? Why are you standing before the house? Do follow me in-doors.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Stop. Do you know why it is that I'm come to you?

EROTIUM
I know well; that you may amuse yourself with me.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Why no, troth, that mantle which I gave you a while since, give it me back, I entreat you; my wife has become acquainted with all the transaction, in its order, just as it happened. I'll procure for you a mantle of twofold greater value than you shall wish.

EROTIUM
Why, I gave it your own self a little while since, that you might take it to the embroiderer's, and that bracelet, too, that you might take it to the goldsmith's that it might be made anew.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
You, gave me the mantle and the bracelet? You'll find 'twas never done. For, indeed, after I gave it you a while ago, and went away to the Forum, I'm but just returning, and now see you for the first time since.

EROTIUM
I see what plan you are upon; that you may defraud me of what I entrusted to you, at that thing you are aiming ——

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
On my word, I do not ask it for the sake of defrauding you. But I tell

you that my wife has discovered the matter.

EROTIUM
Nor did I of my own accord beg you to give it me; of your own accord you yourself brought it me. You gave it me as a present; now you're asking for the same thing back again. I'll put up with it; keep it to yourself; take it away; make use of it, either yourself or your wife, or squeeze it into your money-box even. After this day, that you mayn't be deceived, you shan't set your foot in this house, since you hold me in contempt, who deserve so well of you. Unless you bring money, you'll be disappointed; you can't cajole me. Find some other woman, henceforth, for you to be disappointing.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
By my troth, very angry at last. Hallo! you; stay, I bid you. Come you back. Will you stay now? Will you even for my sake come back? *EROTIUM goes into her house, and shuts the door.* She has gone indoors, and shut the house. Now I'm regularly barred out; I have neither any credit at home now, nor with my mistress. I'll go and consult my friends on this matter, as to what they think should be done. *(Exit.)*

ACT V.

Enter MENAECHMUS SOSICLES, with the mantle on.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
I did very foolishly a while since, in entrusting my purse to Messenio with the money. I suspect he has got himself into some bad house or other. *Enter the WIFE of Menaechmus of Epidamnus, from the house.*

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I'll look out to see how soon my husband is going to return home. But here he is; I see him; I'm all right, he's bringing back the mantle.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
to himself . I wonder where Messenio can be walking now.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I'll go and receive the fellow with such language as he deserves. *Accosting him.* Are you not ashamed to come forward in my presence, you disgraceful man, in that garb?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
What's the matter? What thing is troubling you, woman?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Do you dare, you shameless fellow, to utter even a single word, or to speak to me?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Pray, what wrong have I committed, that I shouldn't dare to speak to you?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Do you ask me? O dear, the impudent audacity of the fellow!

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES

Don’t you know, madam, for what reason the Greeks used to say that Hecuba was a bitch?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I don’t know, indeed.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Because Hecuba used to do the same thing that you are now doing. She used to heap all kinds of imprecations on every one she saw; and, therefore, for that reason she was properly begun to be called a bitch.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I can’t put up with this disgraceful conduct of yours; for I had rather see my life that of a widow, than endure this vile conduct of yours that you are guilty of.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
What is it to me, whether you are able to endure to live in the married state, or whether you will separate from your husband? Is it thus the fashion here to tell these stories to a stranger on his arrival?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
What stories? I say, I’ll not endure it henceforth, but live separate rather than put up with these ways.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Troth, so far indeed as I’m concerned, do live separate, even so long as Jupiter shall hold his sway.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
By heavens, I’ll certainly now send for my father, and I’ll tell him your disgraceful conduct that you are guilty of. Go, Decio *calling to a SERVANT* , seek for my father, that he may come along with you to me; tell him that occasion has arisen for it. I’ll. now disclose to him this disgraceful conduct of yours.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES

Are you in your senses? What disgraceful conduct of mine?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
When you filch from home my mantle and gold trinkets, without the knowledge of your wife, and carry them off to your mistress. Don't I state this correctly?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
O dear! madam, by my faith, you are both very bold and very perverse. Do you dare to say *pointing at the mantle* that this was stolen from you which another woman gave me, for me to get it trimmed?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
A little while since you didn't deny that you had purloined it from me; do you now hold up that same before my eyes? Are you not ashamed?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
By my faith, madam, I entreat you, if you know, show me what I'm to drink, by means of which I may put up with your impertinence. What person you are taking me to be, I don't know; I know you just as well as Parthaon.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
If you laugh at me, still, i' troth, you can't do so at him; my father, I mean, who's coming here. Why don't you look back? Do you know that person?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Just as well as Calchas do I know him; I have seen him on that same day on which I have seen yourself before this present day.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Do you deny that you know me? Do you deny that you know my father?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES

Troth, I shall say the same thing, if you choose to bring your grandfather.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I' faith, you do this and other things just in a like fashion.

Enter an OLD MAN, hobbling with a stick.

OLD MAN
According as my age permits, and as there is occasion to do so, I'll push on my steps and make haste to get along. But how far from easy 'tis for me, I'm not mistaken as to that. For my agility forsakes me, and I am beset with age; I carry my body weighed down; my strength has deserted me. How grievous a pack upon one's back is age. For when it comes, it brings very many and very grievous particulars, were I now to recount all of which, my speech would be too long. But this matter is a trouble to my mind and heart, what this business can possibly be on account of which my daughter suddenly requires me to come to her, and doesn't first let me know what's the matter, what she wants, or why she sends for me. But pretty nearly do I know now what's the matter; I suspect that some quarrel has arisen with her husband. So are these women wont to do, who, presuming on their portions, and haughty, require their husbands to be obedient to them; and they as well full oft are not without fault. But still there are bounds, within which a wife ought to be put up with. By my troth, my daughter never sends for her father to come to her except when either something has been done wrong, or there is a cause for quarrelling. But whatever it is, I shall now know. And see, I perceive her herself before the house, and her husband in a pensive mood. 'Tis the same as I suspected. I'll accost her.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I'll go and meet him. May every happiness attend you, my father.

OLD MAN
Happiness attend you. Do I find you in good spirits? Do you bid me be fetched in happy mood? Why are you sorrowful? And why does

he *pointing at MENAECHMUS* in anger stand apart from you? Something, I know not what, are you two wrangling about between you. Say, in few words, which of the two is in fault: no long speeches, though.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
For my part, I've done nothing wrong; as to that point do I at once make you easy, father. But I cannot live or remain here on any account; you must take me away hence immediately.

OLD MAN
Why, what's the matter?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I am made a laughing-stock of, father.

OLD MAN
By whom?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
By him to whom you gave me, my husband.

OLD MAN
Look at that — a quarrel now. How often, I wonder, have I told you to be cautious, that neither should be coming to me with your complaints.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
How, my father, can I possibly guard against that?

OLD MAN
Do you ask me? ... unless you don't wish. How often have I told you to be compliant to your husband. Don't be watching what he does, where he goes, or what matter he's about.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Why, but he's in love with a courtesan here close by.

OLD MAN
. He is exceedingly wise: and for this painstaking of yours, I would even have him love her the more.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
He drinks there, too.

OLD MAN
And will he really drink the less for you, whether it shall please him to do so there or anywhere else? Plague on it, what assurance is this? On the same principle, you would wish to hinder him from engaging to dine out, or from receiving any other person at his own house. Do you want husbands to be your servants? You might as well expect, on the same principle, to be giving him out his task, and bidding him sit among the female servants and card wool.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Why, surely, father, I've sent for you not to be my advocate, but my husband's: on this side you stand, on the other you plead the cause.

OLD MAN
If he has done wrong in anything, so much the more shall I censure him than I've censured you. Since he keeps you provided for and well clothed, and finds you amply in female servants and provisions, 'tis better, madam, to entertain kindly feelings.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
But he purloins from me gold trinkets and mantles from out of the chests at home; he plunders me, and secretly carries off my ornaments to harlots.

OLD MAN
He does wrong, if he does that; if he does not do it, you do wrong in accusing him when innocent.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Why at this moment, even, he has got a mantle, father, and a bracelet, which he had carried off to her; now, because I came to

know of it, he brings them back.

OLD MAN
I'll know from himself, then, how it happened. I'll go up to this man and accost him. *Goes up to MENAECHMUS.* Tell me this, Menaechmus, what you two are disputing about, that I may know. Why are you pensive? And why does she in anger stand apart from you?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Whoever you are, whatever is your name, old gentleman, I call to witness supreme Jove and the Deities ——

OLD MAN
For what reason, or what matter of all matters?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
That I have neither done wrong to that woman, who is accusing me of having purloined this *pointing to the mantle* away from her at home ... and which she solemnly swears that I did take away. If ever I set foot inside of her house where she lives, I wish that I may become the most wretched of all wretched men.

OLD MAN
Are you in your senses to wish this, or to deny that you ever set foot in that house where you live, you downright madman?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Do you say, old gentleman, that I live in this house? *Pointing at the house.*

OLD MAN
Do you deny it?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
By my faith, certainly do deny it.

OLD MAN

In your fun you are going too far in denying it; unless you flitted elsewhere this last night. Step this way, please, daughter. *To the WIFE.* What do you say? Have you removed from this house?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
To what place, or for what reason, prithee?

OLD MAN
I' faith, I don't know.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
He's surely making fun of you.

OLD MAN
Can't you keep yourself quiet? Now, Menaechmus, you really have joked long enough; now do seriously attend to this matter.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Prithee, what have I to do with you? Whence or what person are you? Is your mind right, or hers, in fact, who is an annoyance to me in every way?

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Don't you see how his eyes sparkle? How a green colour is arising on his temples and his forehead; look how his eyes do glisten ...

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
O me! They say I'm mad, whereas they of themselves are mad.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
How he yawns, as he stretches himself. What am I to do now, my father?

OLD MAN
Step this way, my daughter, as far as ever you can from him.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
aside . What is there better for me than, since they say I'm mad, to

pretend that I am mad, that I may frighten them away from me? *He dances about.* Evoë, Bacchus, ho! Bromius, in what forest dost thou invite me to the chase? I hear thee, but I cannot get away from this spot, so much does this raving mad female cur watch me on the left side. And behind there is that other old he-goat, who many a time in his life has proved the destruction of an innocent fellow-citizen by his false testimony.

OLD MAN
shaking his stick at him . Woe to your head.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Lo! by his oracle, Apollo bids me burn out her eyes with blazing torches. *He points with his fingers at her.*

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I'm undone, my father; he's threatening to burn my eyes out.

OLD MAN
Hark you, daughter.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
What's the matter? What are we to do?

OLD MAN
What if I call the servants out here? I'll go bring some to take him away hence, and bind him at home, before he makes any further disturbance.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
aside . So now; I think now if I don't adopt some plan for myself, these people will be carrying me off home to their house. *Aloud.* Dost thou forbid me to spare my fists at all upon her face, unless she does at once get out of my sight to utter and extreme perdition? I will do what thou dost bid me, Apollo. *Runs after her.*

OLD MAN
to the WIFE . Away with you home as soon as possible, lest he

should knock you down.

THE WIFE OF MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I'm off. Watch him, my father, I entreat you, that he mayn't go anywhere hence. Am I not a wretched woman to hear these things? *She goes into her house.*

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
aside . I've got rid of her not so badly. *Aloud* . Now as for this most filthy, long-bearded, palsied Tithonus, who is said to have had Cygnus for his father, you bid me break in pieces his limbs, and bones, and members with that walking-stick which he himself is holding.

OLD MAN
Punishment shall be inflicted if you touch me indeed, or if you come nearer to me.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
shouting aloud . I will do what thou dost bid me; I will take a two-edged axe, and I will hew this old fellow to his very bones, and I will chop his entrails into mincemeat.

OLD MAN
retreating as far as he can . Why really against that must I take care and precaution. As he threatens, I'm quite in dread of him, lest he should do me some mischief.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
jumping and raising his arms . Many things dost thou bid me do, Apollo. Now thou dost order me to take the yoked horses, unbroke and fierce, and to mount the chariot, that I may crush to pieces this aged, stinking, toothless lion. Now have I mounted the chariot; now do I hold the reins; now is the whip in my hand. Speed onward, ye steeds, let the sound of your hoofs be heard; in your swift course let the rapid pace of your feet be redoubled. *Points at the OLD MAN as he pretends to gallop.*

OLD MAN
Are you threatening me with your yoked steeds?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Lo! again, Apollo, thou dost bid me to make an onset against him who is standing here, and to murder him. But what person is this that is tearing me hence by the hair down from the chariot? He revokes thy commands and the decree of Apollo.

OLD MAN
Alas! a severe and obstinate malady, i' faith. By our trust in you, ye Gods ... even this person who is now mad, how well he was a little time since. All on a sudden has so great a distemper attacked him. I'll go now and fetch a physician as fast as I can. *(Exit.)*

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Prithee, are these persons gone now out of my sight, who are compelling me by force, while in my wits, to be mad? Why do I delay to be off to the ship, while I can in safety? ... And all of you *to the SPECTATORS* , if the old gentleman should return, I beg not to tell him, now, by what street I fled away hence. *(Exit.)*

Enter the OLD MAN, very slowly.

OLD MAN
My bones ache with sitting, my eyes with watching, while waiting for the Doctor, till he returned from his business. At last the troublesome fellow has with difficulty got away from his patients. He says that he has set a broken leg for Aesculapius, and an arm for Apollo. I'm now thinking whether I'm to say that I'm bringing a doctor or a carpenter. But, see, here he comes. — Do get on with your ant's pace.

Enter a DOCTOR.

DOCTOR.
What did you say was his disorder? Tell me, respected sir. Is he harassed by sprites, or is he frenzied? Let me know. Is it lethargy, or

is it dropsy, that possesses him?

OLD MAN
Why, I'm bringing you for that reason, that you may tell me that, and make him convalescent.

DOCTOR.
That indeed is a very easy matter. Why, I shall heal innumerable times as many in the day.

OLD MAN
I wish him to be treated with great attention.

DOCTOR.
That he shall be healed, I promise that on my word; so with great attention will I treat him for you.

OLD MAN
Why, see! here's the man himself.

DOCTOR.
Let's watch what matter he's about. *(They stand aside.)*

Enter MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
to himself . By my faith, this day has certainly fallen out perverse and adverse for me, since the Parasite, who has filled me full of disgrace and terror, has made that all known, which I supposed I was doing secretly; my own Ulysses, who has brought so great evil on his king — a fellow that, by my troth, if I only live, I'll soon finish his life. But I'm a fool, who call that his, which is my own. With my own victuals and at my own expense has he been supported; of existence will I deprive the fellow. But the Courtesan has done this in a way worthy of her, just as the harlot's habit is: because I ask for the mantle, that it may be returned again to my wife, she declares that she has given it me. O dear! By my faith, I do live a wretched man.

OLD MAN
apart . Do you hear what he says ?

DOCTOR.
apart . He declares that he is wretched.

OLD MAN
apart . I wish you to accost him.

DOCTOR.
going up to him . Save you, Menaechmus. Prithee, why do you bare your arm? Don't you know how much mischief you are now doing to that disease of yours?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Why don't you go hang yourself?

OLD MAN
What think you now?

DOCTOR.
What shouldn't I think? This case can't be treated with even ointment of hellebore. But what have you to say, Menaechmus?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
What do you want?

DOCTOR.
Tell me this that I ask of you; do you drink white wine or dark-coloured?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
What need have you to enquire?

DOCTOR.

...

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.

Why don't you go to utter perdition ?

OLD MAN
Troth, he's now beginning to be attacked with the fit.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Why don't you ask whether I'm wont to eat dark bread, or purple, or yellow? Or whether I'm wont to eat birds with scales, or fish with wings?

OLD MAN
Dear, dear! *To the DOCTOR.* Don't you hear how deliriously he talks? Why do you delay to give him something by way of a potion, before his raving overtakes him?

DOCTOR.
Stop a little; I'll question him on some other matters as well.

OLD MAN
You are killing me by your prating.

DOCTOR.
to MENAECHMUS . Tell me this; are your eyes ever in the habit of becoming hard?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
What? Do you take me to be a locust, you most worthless fellow?

DOCTOR.
Tell me, now, do your bowels ever rumble that you know of?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
When I'm full, they don't rumble at all; when I'm hungry, then they do rumble.

DOCTOR.
I' faith, he really gave me that answer not like an insane person. Do you always sleep soundly until daylight? Do you easily go to sleep

when in bed?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I sleep throughout if ... I go to sleep if I have paid my money to him to whom I owe it.

DOCTOR.

...

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
to the DOCTOR . May Jupiter and all the Divinities confound you, you questioner.

DOCTOR.
aside . Now this person begins to rave. *To the OLD MAN.* From those expressions do you take care of yourself.

OLD MAN
Why, he's now really quite favourable in his language, in comparison with what he was a short time since; for, a little while ago, he was saying that his wife was a raving cur.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
What did I say?

OLD MAN
You were raving, I say.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
What, I?

OLD MAN
You there; who threatened as well to ride me down with your yoked steeds.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.

...

OLD MAN
I myself saw you do this; I myself accuse you of this.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
And I know that you stole the sacred crown of Jupiter; and that on that account you were confined in prison; and after you were let out, I know that you were beaten with rods in the bilboes; I know, too, that you murdered your father and sold your mother. Don't I give this abuse in answer for your abuse, like a sane person?

OLD MAN
I' faith, Doctor, whatever you are about to do, prithee, do it quickly. Don't you see that the man is raving?

DOCTOR.
Do you know what's the best for you to do? Have him taken to my house.

OLD MAN
Do you think so?

DOCTOR.
Why should I not? There at my own discretion I shall be able to treat the man.

OLD MAN
Do just as you please.

DOCTOR.
to MENAECHMUS . I'll make you drink hellebore some twenty days.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
But, hanging up, I'll flog you with a whip for thirty days.

DOCTOR.
to the OLD MAN . Go fetch some men to take him off to my house.

OLD MAN
How many are sufficient?

DOCTOR.
Since I see him thus raving, four, no less.

OLD MAN
They shall be here this instant. Do you keep an eye on him, Doctor.

DOCTOR.
Why, no, I shall go home that the things may be got ready, which are necessary to be prepared. Bid your servants carry him to my house.

OLD MAN
I'll make him be there just now.

DOCTOR.
I'm off.

OLD MAN
Farewell. *(Exeunt OLD MAN and DOCTOR, separately.)*

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
My father-in-law is gone, the Doctor is gone; I'm alone. O Jupiter! Why is it that these people say I'm mad? Why, in fact, since I was born, I have never for a single day been ill. I'm neither mad, nor do I commence strifes or quarrels. In health myself, I see others well; I know people, I address them. Is it that they who falsely say I'm mad, are mad themselves? What shall I do now? I wish to go home; but my wife doesn't allow me; and here *pointing to EROTIUM'S house* no one admits me. Most unfortunately has this fallen out. Here will I still remain; at night, at least, I shall be let into the house, I trust. *Stands near his door.*

Enter MESSENIO.

MESSENIO
to himself . This is the proof of a good servant, who takes care of his

master's business, looks after it, arranges it, thinks about it, in the absence of his master diligently to attend to the affairs of his master, as much so as if he himself were present, or even better. It is proper that his back should be of more consequence than his appetite, his legs than his stomach, whose heart is rightly placed. Let him bear in mind, those who are good for nothing, what reward is given them by their masters — lazy, worthless fellows. Stripes, fetters, the mill, weariness, hunger, sharp cold; these are the rewards of idleness. This evil do I terribly stand in awe of. Wherefore 'tis sure that to be good is better than to be bad. Much more readily do I submit to words, stripes I do detest; and I eat what is ground much more readily than supply it ground by myself. Therefore do I obey the command of my master, carefully and diligently do I observe it; and in such manner do I pay obedience, as I think is for the interest of my back. And that course does profit me. Let others be just as they take it to be their interest; I shall be just as I ought to be. If I adhere to that, I shall avoid faultiness; so that I am in readiness for my master on all occasions, I shall not be much afraid. The time is near, when, for these deeds of mine, my master will give his reward. After I had deposited the goods and the servants in the inn, as he ordered me, thus am I come to meet him. *Going to the door of EROTIUM'S house.* Now I'll knock at the door, that he may know that I'm here, and that out of this thick wood of peril I may get my master safe out of doors. But I'm afraid that I'm come too late, after the battle has been fought.

Enter the OLD MAN, with SERVANTS.

OLD MAN
to the SERVANTS . By Gods and men, I tell you prudently to pay regard to my commands, as to what I have commanded and do command. Take care that this person is carried at once upon your shoulders to the surgery, unless, indeed, you set no value upon your legs or your sides. Take care each of you to regard at a straw whatever threats he shall utter. What are you standing for? Why are you hesitating? By this you ought to have had him carried off on your shoulders. I'll go to the Doctor; I'll be there ready when you shall

come. *(Exit. The SERVANTS gather around MENAECHMUS.)*

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I'm undone. What business is this? Why are these men running towards me, pray? What do you want? What do you seek? Why do you stand around me? *They seize and drag him.* Whither are you dragging me? Whither are you carrying me? I'm undone. I entreat your assistance, citizens, men of Epidamnus, come and help me. *To the men.* Why don't you let me go?

MESSENIO
running towards them . O ye immortal Gods, I beseech you, what do I behold with my eyes? Some fellows, I know not who, are most disgracefully carrying off my master upon their shoulders.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Who is it that ventures to bring me aid?

MESSENIO
I, master, and right boldly. *Aloud.* O shameful and scandalous deed, citizens of Epidamnus, for my master, here in a town enjoying peace, to be carried off, in daylight, in the street, who came to you a free man. Let him go.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Prithee, whoever you are, do lend me your aid, and don't suffer so great an outrage to be signally committed against me.

MESSENIO
Aye, I'll give you my aid, and I'll defend you, and zealously succour you. I'll never let you come to harm; 'tis fitter that I myself should come to harm. I'll now make a sowing on the faces of these fellows, and there I'll plant my fists. I' faith, you're carrying this person off this day at your own extreme hazard. Let him go. *He lays about him.*

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
fighting with them . I've got hold of this fellow's eye.

MESSENIO
Make the socket of his eye be seen in his head. You rascals! you villains! you robbers!

THE SERVANTS
severally . We are undone. Troth, now, prithee, do ——

MESSENIO
Let him go then.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
What business have you to touch me? Thump them with your fists.

MESSENIO
Come, begone, fly hence to utter perdition with you. *Three run away.* Here's for you, too *giving the fourth one a punch* ; because you are the last to yield, you shall have this for a reward. *They all disappear.* Right well have I marked his face, and quite to my liking. Troth, now, master, I really did come to your help just now in the nick of time.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
And may the Gods, young man, whoever you are, ever bless you. For, had it not been for you, I should never have survived this day until sunset.

MESSENIO
By my troth, then, master, if you do right, you will give me my freedom.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I, give you your freedom?

MESSENIO
Doubtless: since, master, I have saved you.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
How's this? Young man, you are mistaken.

MESSENIO
How, mistaken?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
By father Jove, I solemnly swear that I am not your master.

MESSENIO
Will you not hold your peace?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I'm telling no lie; nor did any servant of mine ever do such a thing as you have done for me.

MESSENIO
In that case, then, let me go free, if you deny that I am your servant.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
By my faith, so far, indeed, as I'm concerned, be free, and go where you like.

MESSENIO
That is, you order me to do so?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I' faith, I do order you, if I have aught of authority over you.

MESSENIO
Save you, my patron. Since you seriously give me my freedom, I rejoice.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I' faith, I really do believe you.

MESSENIO
But, my patron, I do entreat you that you won't command me any the less now than when I was your servant. With you will I dwell, and when you go I'll go home together with you. Wait for me here; I'll now go to the inn, and bring back the luggage and the money for

you. The purse, with the money for our journey, is fast sealed up in the wallet; I'll bring it just now here to you.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Bring it carefully.

MESSENIO
I'll give it back safe to you just as you gave it to me. Do you wait for me here. *(Exit MESSENIO.)*

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Very wonderful things have really happened this day to me in wonderful ways. Some deny that I am he who I am, and shut me out of doors; others say that I am he who I am not, and will have it that they are my servants. He for instance, who said that he was going for the money, to whom I gave his freedom just now. Since he says that he will bring me a purse with money, if he does bring it, I'll say that he may go free from me where he pleases, lest at a time when he shall have come to his senses he should ask the money of me. My father-in-law and the Doctor were saying that I am mad. Whatever it is, it is a wonderful affair. These things appear to me not at all otherwise than dreams. Now I'll go in the house to this Courtesan, although she is angry with me; if I can prevail upon her to restore the mantle for me to take back home. *He goes into EROTIUM'S house.*

Enter MENAECHMUS SOSICLES and MESSENIO.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Do you dare affirm, audacious fellow, that I have ever met you this day since the time when I ordered you to come here to meet me?

MESSENIO
Why, I just now rescued you before this house, when four men were carrying you off upon their shoulders. You invoked the aid of all Gods and men, when I ran up and delivered you by main force, fighting, and in spite of them. For this reason, because I rescued you, you set me at liberty. When I said that I was going for the money and the luggage, you ran before to meet me as quickly as you could, in

order that you might deny what you did.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
I, bade you go away a free man?

MESSENIO
Certainly.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Why, on the contrary, 'tis most certain that I myself would rather become a slave than ever give you your freedom.

Enter MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus, from EROTIUM's house.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
at the door, to EROTIUM within . If you are ready to swear by your eyes, by my troth, not a bit the more for that reason, most vile woman, will you make it that I took away the mantle and the bracelet to-day.

MESSENIO
Immortal Gods, what do I see?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
What do you see?

MESSENIO
Your resemblance in a mirror.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
What's the matter?

MESSENIO
'Tis your image; 'tis as like as possible.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
catching sight of the other . Troth, it really is not unlike, so far as I know my own form.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
to MESSENIO . O young man, save you, you who preserved me, whoever you are.

MESSENIO
By my troth, young man, prithee, tell me your name, unless it's disagreable.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I' faith, you've not so deserved of me, that it should be disagreable for me to tell what you wish. My name is Menaechmus.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Why, by my troth, so is mine.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I am a Sicilian, of Syracuse.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Troth, the same is my native country.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
What is it that I hear of you?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
That which is the fact.

MESSENIO
To MENAECHMUS SOSICLES, by mistake . I know this person myself *pointing to the other MENAECHMUS* ; he is my master, I really am his servant; but I did think I belonged to this other. *To MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus, by mistake.* I took him to be you; to him, too, did I give some trouble. *To his master.* Pray, pardon me if I have said aught foolishly or unadvisedly to you.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
You seem to me to be mad. Don't you remember that together with me you disembarked from board ship to-day?

MESSENIO
Why, really, you say what's right — you are my master; *to MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus* do you look out for a servant. *To his master.* To you my greetings *(to MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus)* to you, farewell. This, I say, is Menaechmus.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
But I say I am.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
What story's this? Are you Menaechmus?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I say that I'm the son of Moschus, who was my father.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Are you the son of my father?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Aye, I really am, young man, of my own father. I don't want to claim your father, nor to take possession of him from you.

MESSENIO
Immortal Gods, what unhoped-for hope do you bestow on me, as I suspect. For unless my mind misleads me, these are the two twin-brothers; for they mention alike their native country and their father. I'll call my master aside — Menaechmus.

BOTH OF THE MENAECHMI.
What do you want?

MESSENIO
I don't want you both. But which of you was brought here in the ship with me?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Not I.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
But 'twas I.

MESSENIO
You, then, I want. Step this way. *They go aside.*

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
I've stepped aside now. What's the matter?

MESSENIO
This man is either an impostor, or he is your twin-brother. But I never beheld one person more like another person. Neither water, believe me, is ever more like to water nor milk to milk, than he is to you, and you likewise to him; besides, he speaks of the same native country and father. 'Tis better for us to accost him and make further enquiries of him.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
I' faith, but you've given me good advice, and I return you thanks. Troth, now, prithee, do continue to lend me your assistance. If you discover that this is my brother, be you a free man.

MESSENIO
I hope I shall.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
I too hope that it will be so.

MESSENIO
to MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus . How say you? I think you said that you are called Menaechmus?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I did so indeed.

MESSENIO
pointing to his master . His name, too, is Menaechmus. You said that you were born at Syracuse, in Sicily; he was born there. You said

that Moschus was your father; he was his as well. Now both of you can be giving help to me and to yourselves at the same time.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
You have deserved that you should beg nothing but what you should obtain that which you desire. Free as I am, I'll serve you as though you. had bought me for money.

MESSENIO
I have a hope that I shall find that you two are twin-born brothers, born of one mother and of one father on the same day.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
You mention wondrous things. I wish that you could effect what you've promised.

MESSENIO
I can. But attend now, both of you, and tell me that which I shall ask.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Ask as you please, I'll answer you. I'll not conceal anything that I know.

MESSENIO
Isn't your name Menaechmus?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I own it.

MESSENIO
Isn't it yours as well?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
It is.

MESSENIO
Do you say that Moschus was your father?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Truly, I do say so.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
And mine as well.

MESSENIO
Are you of Syracuse?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Certainly.

MESSENIO
And you?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Why not the same?

MESSENIO
Hitherto the marks agree perfectly well. Still lend me your attention. *To MENAECHMUS.* Tell me, what do you remember at the greatest distance of time in your native country?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
When I went with my father to Tarentum to traffic; and afterwards how I strayed away from my father among the people, and was carried away thence.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Supreme Jupiter, preserve me!

MESSENIO
to MENAECHMUS SOSICLES . Why do you exclaim? Why don't you hold your peace? *To MENAECHMUS.* How many years old were you when your father took you from your native country?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Seven years old; for just then my teeth were changing for the first

time. And never since then have I seen my father.

MESSENIO
Well, how many sons of you had your father then?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
As far as I now remember, two.

MESSENIO
Which of the two was the older — you or the other?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Both were just alike in age.

MESSENIO
How can that be?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
We two were twins.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
The Gods wish to bless me.

MESSENIO
to MENAECHMUS SOSICLES . If you interrupt, I shall hold my tongue.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Rather than that, I'll hold my tongue.

MESSENIO
Tell me, were you both of the same name?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
By no means; for my name was what it is now Menaechmus; the other they then used to call Sosicles.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
embracing his brother . I recognize the proofs, I cannot refrain from

embracing him. My own twin-brother, blessings on you; I am Sosicles.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
How then was the name of Menaechmus afterwards given to you?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
After word was brought to us that you ... and that my father was dead, my grandfather changed it; the name that was yours he gave to me.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I believe that it did so happen as you say. But answer me this.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Ask it of me.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
What was the name of our mother?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Teuximarcha.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
That quite agrees. *He again embraces him.* O welcome, unhoped-for brother, whom after many years I now behold.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
And you, whom with many and anxious labours I have ever been seeking up to this time, and whom I rejoice at being found.

MESSENIO
to his master . It was for this reason that this Courtesan called you by his name; she thought that you were he, I suppose, when she invited you to breakfast.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Why, faith, to-day I ordered a breakfast to be got ready here *pointing*

to EROTIUM'S house for me, unknown to my wife; a mantle which a short time since I filched from home, to her I gave it.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Do you say, brother, that this is the mantle which I'm wearing?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
How did this come to you?

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
The Courtesan who took me here *pointing to EROTIUM'S house* to breakfast, said that I had given it to her. I breakfasted very pleasantly; I drank and entertained myself with my mistress; she gave me the mantle and this golden trinket. *Showing the bracelet.* ...

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I' faith, I'm glad if any luck has befallen you on my account; for when she invited you to her house, she supposed it to be me.

MESSENIO
Do you make any objection that I should be free as you commanded?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
He asks, brother, what's very fair and very just Do it for my sake.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
touching MESSENIO'S shoulder . Be thou a free man.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
I am glad, Messenio, that you are free.

MESSENIO
Why, better auspices were required that I should be free for life. ...

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Since these matters, brother, have turned out to our wishes, let us both return to our native land.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
Brother, I'll do as you wish. I'll have an auction here, and sell whatever I have. In the meantime, brother, let's now go in-doors.

MENAECHMUS SOSICLES
Be it so.

MESSENIO
Do you know what I ask of you?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
What?

MESSENIO
To give me the place of auctioneer.

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
It shall be given you.

MESSENIO
Would you like the auction, then, to be proclaimed at once? For what day?

MENAECHMUS of Epidamnus.
On the seventh day hence.

MESSENIO
coming forward, and speaking in a loud voice . An auction of the property of Menaechmus will certainly take place on the morning of the seventh day hence. His slaves, furniture, house, and farms, will be sold. All will go for whatever they'll fetch at ready money prices. His wife, too, will be sold as well, if any purchaser shall come. I think that by the entire sale Menaechmus will hardly get fifty hundred thousand sesterces. *To the SPECTATORS.* Now, Spectators, fare you well, and give us loud applause.

MERCATOR

Translated by Henry Thomas Riley

Mercator (The Merchant) is based on a Greek play by Philemon, (c. 362 BC – c. 262 BC), who was an Athenian poet and playwright of the New Comedy. Philemon was born either at Soli in Cilicia or at Syracuse in Sicily, but moved to Athens some time before 330 BC, when he is known to have been producing plays. He attained remarkable popularity, for he repeatedly won victories over his younger contemporary and rival Menander, whose delicate wit was apparently less to the taste of the Athenians of the time than Philemon's comedy. In later times his successes over Menander were so unintelligible as to be ascribed to the influence of malice and intrigue.

The plot of *Mercator* concerns a young man named Charinus, who has fallen in love with Pasicompsa while on a business trip for his father and so he has brought her back to Athens. Charinus' father Demipho comes to the boat while it is docking with Pasicompsa on board, and Charinus is away. To explain the girl's presence, Acanthio, a slave of Charinus, devises a story that Charinus bought her to be a slave for his mother. Demipho falls for the girl as well and hatches a plot to get her for himself, leading to hilarious consequences…

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THE SUBJECT.

THIS Play (which is thought by some not to have been the composition of Plautus) describes the follies of a vicious old man and his son. Two years before the period when the Play opens, Charinus has been sent by his father Demipho to traffic at Rhodes. Returning thence, he brings with him a young woman, named Pasicompsa, who is in reality his mistress, but whom he pretends to have purchased for the purpose of her being an attendant upon his mother. Demipho, in the absence of his son, goes down to the ship, and seeing the young woman there, falls desperately in love with her. He then pretends to Charinus that she is too handsome to be brought into the house as a servant, and that she must be sold again. Insisting upon this, he persuades his friend, Lysimachus, to purchase her for him in his own name, and to take her to his own house. This being done, and the damsel brought to the house, the wife of Lysimachus unexpectedly returns home from the country, and finds her there. In the meanwhile, Charinus, being reduced to despair on losing his mistress, determines to leave the country. His friend Eutychus, the son of Lysimachus, having discovered his friend's mistress in his father's house, stops him just as he is about to depart, and informs him where she has been found. He then reconciles his own parents, and the Play concludes with his very just censure of Demipho for his vicious conduct.

THE ACROSTIC ARGUMENT.

[Supposed to have been written by Priscian the Grammarian.]

A YOUNG man, being sent (Missus) by his father to traffic, buys (Emit) a damsel of remarkable beauty, and brings her home. The old man, after he has seen her, makes enquiry (Requirit) who she is. The servant pretends (Confingit) that she has been bought by the son as an attendant for his mother. The old man falls in love with (Amat) her, and pretending that he has sold her, gives her in the charge of (Tradit) his neighbour. His wife thinks that he has brought (Obduxe) a mistress home. Then his friend stops (Retrahit) Charinus in his flight, after he has discovered his mistress.

ACT I.

The PROLOGUE, spoken by CHARINUS.

CHARINUS
Two things have I now resolved to do at the same time; both the subject and my own amours will I disclose. I am not doing like as I have seen other lovers do in Comedies, who relate their woes either to the night or to the day, or to the Sun or to the Moon; who, faith, I don't suppose pay much regard to the complaints of mortals, either what they wish or what they don't wish. To yourselves in preference will I now relate my woes. In the Greek this Play is called the Emporos of Philemon; the same in the Latin is the Mercator of Marcus Accius. My father sent me hence to trade at Rhodes. Two years have now passed since I left home. There I began to love a fair one of remarkable beauty. But how I was captivated by her, I'll tell you, if you'll lend ear, and if you'll have the kindness to give your attention to this. And yet in this, but little have I followed the method of our forefathers in my own person, and on the spot as a tell- tale of my own amours am I represented before you. But all these failings are wont to attend on love — care, trouble, and refinement overmuch. Not only him who loves, but every one to whom this latter fault extends, him with a great and weighty evil does it affect; nor by my troth, in fact, does any one aim at refinement, beyond what his means allow of, without heavy disaster. But to love as well are these evils incident, which I have not as yet recounted — sleeplessness, a troubled mind, confusion, terror, and apprehension, trifling, and folly even, rashness too, thoughtlessness, foolhardy impudence, wantonness, lust, and malevolence; covetousness is inherent as well, idleness, injustice, want, contumely and wastefulness, talkativeness or moody silence. This latter is the fact, because things which relate not to the purpose, nor are of utility, the same does the lover give utterance to full oft at an unseasonable moment; and yet again, this moody silence for this reason do I commend, because no lover is ever so skilled in eloquence, as to be enabled to give utterance to that which is for his own interest. You,

then, must not be offended with myself for my babbling; Venus bestowed it upon me on that same day on which this passion. To that point am I resolved to return, that what I commenced upon I may disclose. In the first place, when in life I had passed from my boyish days, and my disposition was weaned from childish pursuits, I began distractedly to love a Courtesan in this place. Forthwith, unknown to my father, my means went to be wasted upon her; an exacting Procurer, the owner of this damsel, by every method that he could, grasped everything into his own possession. Night and day my father censured me for this; represented the perfidy, the wickedness of Procurers; how that his own property was being forcibly rent in pieces, while that of this Procurer was increasing; this too in the loudest tones; sometimes muttering to himself; refusing to speak to me; even denying that I was his child; crying aloud through all the city and proclaiming that all should withhold from trusting me when desiring to borrow; that love had allured many a one to ruin; that I, passing all bounds, regardless of decency, and acting wrongfully, laid hands upon and tore whatever I could from him at home; that 'twas a most vile system that those choice possessions which he, by enduring every hardship, had acquired, should all be squandered away and parted with through the violence of my desire. That now for so many years he had supported myself, a reproach to him; that were I not ashamed, I ought not to desire to live. That he himself, at the very moment after he had passed his boyish days, did not, like me, devote his attention to love or indolence in slothfulness, nor, indeed, had he the control of himself, so very strictly by his father was he held in check; that in the various sordid pursuits of the country he was employed, and that only every fifth year even was he then enabled to visit the city, and that immediately after he had had a sight of the Festival, back again instantly into the country was he wont to be driven by his father. That there by far the most of all the household did he toil, while thus his father would say to him: "For yourself you are ploughing, for yourself you harrow, for yourself you sow, for your own self too do you reap; for yourself, in fine, will this labour be productive of happiness." That after life had left his father's body, he had sold the farm, and with that money had bought for himself a bark of fifteen tons, and with the same had transported

merchandize to every quarter, even until he had acquired the property which he then possessed. That I ought to do the same, if I would be as it behoved me to be. I, when I found that I was disliked by my father and was an object of hate to him whom I was bound to please, distracted and in love as I was, resolutely made up my mind. I said that I would go to traffic, if he pleased; that I would renounce my amour, so as to be obedient to him. He gave me thanks, and praised my good feeling, but failed not to exact my promise; he built a merchant-ship, and purchased merchandize; the ship ready, he placed it on board; besides, to myself with his own hand he paid down a talent of silver; with me he sent a servant, who formerly had been my tutor from the time when I was a little child, to be as though a guardian to me. These things completed, we set sail; we came to Rhodes, where the merchandize which I had brought I sold to my mind according as I wished; I made great profits, beyond the estimate of the merchandize which my father had given me; and so I made a large sum. But while in the harbour I was walking there, a certain stranger recognized me, and invited me to dinner. I went, and took my place at table, being merrily and handsomely entertained. When at night we went to rest, behold, a female came to me, than whom not another female is there more charming. That night, by order of my entertainer, did she pass with me; consider your own selves, how very much he gratified me. Next day, I went to my host; I begged him to sell her to me; I said that for his kindnesses I should ever be grateful and obliged. What need is there of talking? I bought her, and yesterday I brought her hither. I don't wish my father to come to know I've brought her. For the present, I've left her and a servant in the harbour on board the ship. But why do I see my servant running hither from the harbour, whom I forbade to leave the ship? I dread what the reason may be. *Stands aside.*

Enter ACANTHIO, at a distance, in haste.

ACANTHIO
to himself . With your utmost power and might always try and endeavour that your younger master may by your aid be preserved. Come then, Acanthio, away with weariness from you; take care and

be on your guard against sloth. At the same time put an end to this panting; troth, I can hardly fetch my breath; at the same time, too, drive right full against all those persons who come in the way, shove them aside, and push them into the road. This custom here is a very bad one; no one thinks it proper for him to give way to one who is running and in haste; and thus three things must be done at the same moment, when you have commenced upon but one; you must both run and fight, and squabble as well, upon the road.

CHARINUS
apart . What's the reason of this, that he's requiring speed for himself at a rate so rapid? I have some anxiety, what the business is, or what news he brings.

ACANTHIO
to himself . I'm trifling about it. The more I stop, the greater the risk that's run.

CHARINUS
apart . He brings news of some misfortune, I know not what.

ACANTHIO
to himself . His knees are failing this runner. I'm undone, my spleen is in rebellion, it's taking possession of my breast. I'm done up, I can't draw my breath. A very worthless piper should I be. I' faith, not all the baths will ever remove this lassitude from me. Am I to say that my master Charinus is at home or abroad?

CHARINUS
apart . I'm doubtful in my mind what the matter is; I'd like for myself to learn of him, that I may become acquainted with it.

ACANTHIO
to himself . But why still standing here? Why still hesitating to make splinters of this door? *Knocks at the door of DEMIPHO'S house, and calls.* Open the door, some one. Where's my master, Charinus? Is he at home or abroad? Does any one think fit to come to the door?

CHARINUS
presenting himself . Why, here am I, whom you're looking for, Acanthio.

ACANTHIO
not seeing him . There is nowhere a more lazy management than in his house.

CHARINUS
What matter is afflicting you so terribly?

ACANTHIO
turning round . Many, master, both yourself and me.

CHARINUS
What's the matter?

ACANTHIO
We are undone.

CHARINUS
That beginning do you present unto our foes.

ACANTHIO
But your own self it has befallen, as fate would have it.

CHARINUS
Tell me this matter, whatever it is.

ACANTHIO
Quietly — I want to take a rest. *He pants.*

CHARINUS
But, i' faith, do take the skirt of your coat, and wipe the sweat from off you.

ACANTHIO
For your sake, I've burst the veins of my lungs; I'm spitting blood

already. *He spits.*

CHARINUS
Swallow Ægyptian resin with honey; you'll make it all right.

ACANTHIO
Then, i' faith, do you drink hot pitch; then your troubles will vanish.

CHARINUS
I know no one a more tetchy fellow than yourself.

ACANTHIO
And I know no one more abusive than yourself

CHARINUS
But what if I'm persuading you to that which I take to be for your benefit?

ACANTHIO
Away with benefit of that sort, that's accompanied with pain.

CHARINUS
Tell me, is there any good at all that any one can enjoy entirely without evil; or where you mustn't endure labour when you wish to enjoy it?

ACANTHIO
I don't understand these things; I never learnt to philosophize, and don't know how. I don't want any good to be given me, to which evil is an accompaniment.

CHARINUS
extending his hand . Come now, Acanthio, give me your right hand.

ACANTHIO
It shall be given; there then, take it. *Gives his hand.*

CHARINUS

Do you intend yourself to be obedient to me, or don't you intend it?

ACANTHIO
You may judge by experience, as I've ruptured myself with running for your sake, in order that what I knew, you might have the means of knowing directly.

CHARINUS
I'll make you a free man within a few months.

ACANTHIO
You are smoothing me down.

CHARINUS
What, should I presume ever to make mention of an untrue thing to you? On the contrary, before I said so, you knew already whether I intend to utter an untruth.

ACANTHIO
Ah! your words, upon my faith, are increasing my weakness. You are worrying me to death!

CHARINUS
What, is this the way you're obedient to me?

ACANTHIO
What do you want me to do?

CHARINUS
What, you? What I want is this ——

ACANTHIO
What is it then that you do want?

CHARINUS
I'll tell you.

ACANTHIO

Tell me, then.

CHARINUS
But still, I'd like to do it in a quiet way.

ACANTHIO
Are you afraid lest you should wake the drowsy Spectators from their nap?

CHARINUS
Woe be to you!

ACANTHIO
For my part, that same am I bringing to you from the harbour.

CHARINUS
What are you bringing? Tell me.

ACANTHIO
Violence, alarm, torture, care, strife, and beggary.

CHARINUS
I'm undone! You really are bringing me hither a store of evils. I'm ruined outright.

ACANTHIO
Why, yes, you are ——

CHARINUS
I know it already; you'll be saying I'm wretched.

ACANTHIO
'Tis you have said so; I'm mum.

CHARINUS
What mishap is this?

ACANTHIO
Don't enquire. It is a very great calamity.

CHARINUS
Prithee, do relieve me at once. Too long a time have I been in suspense.

ACANTHIO
Softly; I still wish to make many enquiries before I'm beaten.

CHARINUS
By my troth, you assuredly will be beaten, unless you say at once, or get away from here.

ACANTHIO
Do look at that, please, how he does coax me; there's no one more flattering when he sets about it.

CHARINUS
By heavens, I do entreat and beseech you to disclose to me at once what it is; inasmuch as I see that I must be the suppliant of my own servant.

ACANTHIO
And do I seem so unworthy of it?

CHARINUS
Oh no, quite worthy.

ACANTHIO
Well, so I thought.

CHARINUS
Prithee, is the ship lost?

ACANTHIO
The ship's all right; don't fear about that.

CHARINUS
Well then, the rest of the cargo?

ACANTHIO
That's right and tight.

CHARINUS
Why then don't you tell me what it is, for which, just now, running through the city, you were seeking me?

ACANTHIO
Really, you are taking the words out of my mouth.

CHARINUS
I'll hold my tongue.

ACANTHIO
Do hold your tongue. I doubt, if I brought you any good news, you'd be dreadfully pressing, who are now insisting upon my speaking out, when you must hear bad news.

CHARINUS
Troth then, prithee do you let me know what this misfortune is.

ACANTHIO
Since you beg of me, I'll tell you. Your father ——

CHARINUS
My father did what?

ACANTHIO
Your mistress ——

CHARINUS
What about her?

ACANTHIO
He has seen her.

CHARINUS
Seen her? Ah wretch that I am! What I ask you, answer me.

ACANTHIO
Nay, but do you ask me, if you want anything.

CHARINUS
How could he see her?

ACANTHIO
With his eyes.

CHARINUS
In what way?

ACANTHIO
Wide open.

CHARINUS
Away hence and be hanged. You are trifling, when my life's at stake.

ACANTHIO
How the plague am I trifling, if I answer you what you ask me?

CHARINUS
Did he see her for certain?

ACANTHIO
Aye, troth, as certainly as I see you and you see me.

CHARINUS
Where did he see her?

ACANTHIO
Down on board the ship, as he stood near the prow and chatted with her.

CHARINUS
Father, you have undone me. Come now, you, come now, you sir? Why, you whip-rascal, didn't you take care that he mightn't see her? Why, villain, didn't you stow her away, that my father mightn't

perceive her?

ACANTHIO
Because we were busily employed about our business; we were engaged in packing up and arranging the cargo. While these things were being done, your father was brought alongside in a very small boat; and not an individual beheld the man until he was aboard the ship.

CHARINUS
In vain have I escaped the sea with its dreadful tempests! Just now I really did suppose that I was both ashore and in a place of safety; but I see that by the raging waves I am being hurried towards the rocks. Say on; what took place?

ACANTHIO
After he espied the woman, he began to ask her to whom she belonged.

CHARINUS
What did she answer?

ACANTHIO
That instant I ran up and interposed, saying that you had bought her as a maid-servant for your mother.

CHARINUS
Did he seem to believe you in that?

ACANTHIO
Do you e'en ask me that? Why the rogue began to take liberties with her.

CHARINUS
Prithee, what, with her?

ACANTHIO
'Twere a wonder if he had taken liberties with myself.

CHARINUS
By heavens, my heart is saddened, which, drop by drop is melting away, just as though you were to put salt in water. I'm undone.

ACANTHIO
Aye, aye, that one expression have you most truly uttered.

CHARINUS
This is mere folly. What shall I do? I do think. my father won't believe me if I say that I bought her for my mother; and then, besides, it seems to me a shame that I should tell a lie to my parent. He'll neither believe, nor indeed is it credible, that I bought this woman of surpassing beauty as a maid-servant for my mother.

ACANTHIO
Won't you be quiet, you most silly man? Troth, he will believe it, for he just now believed me.

CHARINUS
I'm dreadfully afraid that a suspicion will reach my father how the matter really stands. Prithee, answer me this that I ask you.

ACANTHIO
What do you ask?

CHARINUS
Did he seem to suspect that she was my mistress?

ACANTHIO
He did not seem. On the contrary, in everything, just as I said it, he believed me.

CHARINUS
As being true-as he seemed to yourself at least.

ACANTHIO
Not so; but he really did believe me.

CHARINUS
Ah! wretched man that I am! I'm ruined! But why do I kill myself here with repining, and don't be off to the ship? Follow me. *Hastening along.*

ACANTHIO
If you go that way, you'll conveniently come slap upon your father. As soon as he shall see you, dismayed and out of spirits, at once he'll be stopping you, and enquiring where you bought her, and for how much you bought her; he'll be trying you in your dismay.

CHARINUS
turning about . I'll go this way in preference. Do you think that by this my father has left the harbour?

ACANTHIO
Why, it was for that reason I ran before him hither, that he mightn't come upon you unawares and fish it out of you.

CHARINUS
Very properly done. *(Exeunt.)*

ACT II.

Enter DEMIPHO.

DEMIPHO
to himself . In wondrous ways do the Gods make sport of men, and in wondrous fashions do they send dreams in sleep. As, for instance, I, this very last night that has passed, have sufficiently experienced in my sleep, and, mortal that I am, was much occupied therewith. I seemed to have purchased for myself a beautiful she-goat. That she might not offend that other she-goat which I had at home before, and that they mightn't disagree if they were both in the same spot, after that I had purchased her, I seemed to entrust her to the charge of an ape. This ape, not very long afterwards, came to me, uttered imprecations against me, and assailed me with reproaches; he said that by her means and through the arrival of the she-goat he had suffered injury and loss in no slight degree; he said that the she-goat, which I had entrusted to him to keep, had gnawed away the marriage-portion of his wife. This seemed extremely wonderful to me, how that this single she-goat could possibly have gnawed away the marriage-portion of the wife of the ape. The ape, however, insisted that it was so, and, in short, gave me this answer, that if I didn't make baste and remove her away from his own house, he would bring her home into my house to my wife. And, by my troth, I seemed very greatly to take an interest in her, but not to have any one to whom to entrust this she-goat; wherefore the more, in my distress, was I tormented with anxiety what to do. Meanwhile, a kid appeared to address me, and began to tell me that he had carried off the she-goat from the ape, and began to laugh at me. But I began to lament and complain that she was carried off. To what reality I am to suppose that this vision points, I can't discover; except that I suspect that I have just now discovered this she-goat, what she is, or what it all means. This morning, at daybreak, I went away hence down to the harbour. After I had transacted there what I wanted, suddenly I espied the ship from Rhodes, in which my son arrived here yesterday. I had an inclination, I know not why, to visit it; I went on

board a boat, and put off to the ship; and there I beheld a woman of surpassing beauty, whom my son has brought as a maid-servant for his mother. After I had thus beheld her, I fell in love with her, not as men in their senses, but after the fashion in which madmen are wont. I' faith, in former times, in my youthful days, I fell in love, 'tis true; but after this fashion, according as I'm now distracted, never. Now beyond a doubt, surely thus this matter stands; this is that she-goat. But what that ape and that kid mean, I'm afraid. One thing, i' faith, I really do know for certain, that I'm undone for love; *to the AUDIENCE* consider yourselves the other point, what a poor creature I am. But I'll hold my tongue; lo! I see my neighbour; he's coming out of doors. *Stands aside.*

Enter LYSIMACHUS and a SERVANT with some rakes, from the house of the former.

LYSIMACHUS
Really I will have this goat mutilated, that's giving us so much trouble at the farm.

DEMIPHO
apart . Neither this omen nor this augury pleases me; I'm afraid that my wife will be just now mutilating me like the he-goat, and be acting the part of this same ape.

LYSIMACHUS
Do you go hence to my country-house, and take care and deliver personally into his own hands those rakes to the bailiff Pistus himself. Take care and tell my wife that I have business in the city, so that she mayn't expect me; for do you mention that I have three causes coming on for judgment to-day. Be off, and remember to say this.

SERV.
Anything more?

LYSIMACHUS
That's enough. *(Exit)*

SERVANT.

DEMIPHO
Stepping forward . Greetings to you, Lysimachus.

LYSIMACHUS
Well met! and greetings to you, Demipho. How are you? How goes it?

DEMIPHO
As with one that's most wretched.

LYSIMACHUS
May the Gods grant better things.

DEMIPHO
As for the Gods, it's they that do this.

LYSIMACHUS
What's the matter?

DEMIPHO
I'd tell you, if I saw that you had time or leisure.

LYSIMACHUS
Although I have business in hand, if you wish for anything, Demipho, I'm never too busy to give attention to a friend.

DEMIPHO
You speak of your kindness to myself who have experienced it. How do I seem to you as to age?

LYSIMACHUS
A subject for Acheron — an antiquated, decrepit old fellow.

DEMIPHO
You see in a wrong light. I am a child, Lysimachus, of seven years old.

LYSIMACHUS
Are you in your senses, to say that you are a child?

DEMIPHO
I'm telling what's true.

LYSIMACHUS
I' faith, it has this moment come into my mind what you mean to say; directly a person is old, no longer has he sense or taste; people say that he has become a child again.

DEMIPHO
Why, no; for I'm twice as hearty as ever I was before.

LYSIMACHUS
I' faith, it's well that so it is, and I'm glad of it.

DEMIPHO
Aye, and if you did but know; with my eyes, too, I see even better now than I did formerly.

LYSIMACHUS
That's good.

DEMIPHO
Of a thing that's bad, I'm speaking.

LYSIMACHUS
Then that same is not good.

DEMIPHO
But, if I wished at all, could I venture to disclose something to you?

LYSIMACHUS
Boldly.

DEMIPHO
Give heed, then.

LYSIMACHUS
It shall be carefully done.

DEMIPHO
This day, Lysimachus, I've begun to go to school to learn my letters. I know three letters already.

LYSIMACHUS
How? Three letters?

DEMIPHO
spelling . A M O [I am in love].

LYSIMACHUS
What! you, in love, with your hoary head, you most shocking old fellow?

DEMIPHO
Whether that is hoary, or whether red, or whether black, I'm in love.

LYSIMACHUS
You're now playing upon me in this, I fancy, Demipho.

DEMIPHO
Cut my throat, if it's false, what I'm saying. That you may be sure I'm in love, take a knife, and do you cut off either my finger, or my ear, or my nose, or my lip: if I move me, or feel that I'm being cut, then, Lysimachus, I give you leave to torture me to death here with being in love.

LYSIMACHUS
aside to the AUDIENCE . If ever you've seen a lover in a picture, why, there he is *pointing at DEMIPHO* : for really, in my way of thinking, an antiquated, decrepit old man is just about the same as though he were a figure painted upon a wall.

DEMIPHO
Now, I suppose, you are thinking of censuring me.

LYSIMACHUS
What, I, censure you?

DEMIPHO
Well, there's no reason that you should censure me. Other distinguished men have done the like before. It's natural to be in love, it's natural, as well, to be considerate. Then, please, don't reprove me; no inclination impelled me to this.

LYSIMACHUS
Why, I'm not reproving you.

DEMIPHO
But still, don't you think any the worse of me for acting thus.

LYSIMACHUS
I, think the worse of you? O, may the Deities forbid it.

DEMIPHO
Still, please, only do take care of that.

LYSIMACHUS
Due care is taken.

DEMIPHO
Quite sure?

LYSIMACHUS
You're wearing me out. *Aside.* This person's deranged through love. *To DEMIPHO.* Do you desire aught with me?

DEMIPHO
Farewell!

LYSIMACHUS
I'm making haste to the harbour; for I've got business there.

DEMIPHO

Good luck go with you.

LYSIMACHUS
Heartily fare you well.

DEMIPHO
Kindly fare you well. *(Exit LYSIMACHUS.) DEMIPHO continues, to himself* . And what's more, I too as well have got some business at the harbour; now, therefore, I shall be off thither. But, look! most opportunely I see my son. I'll wait for the fellow; it's necessary for me now to see him, to persuade him, as far as I possibly can, to sell her to me, and not make a present of her to his mother; for I've heard that he has brought her as a present for her. But I have need of precaution, that he mayn't any way imagine that I have set my fancy upon her.

Enter CHARINUS, at a distance.

CHARINUS
to himself . Never, I do think, was any person more wretched than myself, nor one who had more everlasting crosses. Isn't it the fact, that whatever thing there is that I have commenced to attempt, it cannot fall out to my wish according as I desire? To such an extent is some evil fortune always befalling me, which overwhelms my fair intentions. To my misfortune, I procured me a mistress to please my inclination; I acquired her for a sum of money, fancying that I could keep her unknown to my father. He has found her out, and has seen her, and has undone me. Nor have I yet determined what to say when he asks me, so much do uncertain thoughts, aye, tenfold, struggle within my breast; nor know I now in my mind what resolution I can possibly take; so much uncertainty, mingled with anxiety, is there in my feelings, at one moment the advice of my servant pleases me, then again it doesn't please me, and it doesn't seem possible for my father to be induced to think that she was bought as a maid-servant for my mother. Now, if I say, as is the fact, and declare that I purchased her for myself, what will he think of me? He may take her away, too, and carry her hence beyond sea, to be sold! Well taught at

home, I know how severe he is. Is this, then, being in love? I'd rather be at the plough-tail than love in this fashion. Before to-day, long ago, he drove me away against my inclination from his house, my home, and bade me go and traffic. There did I meet with this misfortune. When its misery can surpass its pleasure, what is there delightful in it? In vain I've hidden her, concealed her, kept her in secret; my father's a very fly; nothing can be kept away from him; nothing so sacred or so profane is there, but that he's there at once; neither have I any assured hope in my mind through which to feel confidence in my fortunes.

DEMIPHO
apart . What's the reason of this, that my son is talking to himself alone? He seems to me anxious about some matter, I know not what.

CHARINUS
looking round . Heyday, now! Why, surely it's my father here that I see. I'll go and accost him. *Accosting him.* How goes it, father?

DEMIPHO
Whence do you come? Why are you in a hurry, my son?

CHARINUS
It's all right, father.

DEMIPHO
So I trust; but what's the reason that your colour's so changed? Do you feel ill at all?

CHARINUS
I know not what it is affects my spirits, father; this last night I didn't rest quite as well as I wished.

DEMIPHO
As you've been travelling by sea, your eyes, I suppose, are at present rather unaccustomed to the shore.

CHARINUS

No doubt it is that; but it will be going off presently.

DEMIPHO
Troth, it's for that reason you are pale; if you were prudent, you'd go home and lie down.

CHARINUS
I haven't the leisure; I wish to attend to business on commission.

DEMIPHO
Attend to it to-morrow; the day after, attend to it.

CHARINUS
I've often heard from you, father, it behoves all wise men, the first thing, to give their earliest attention to business upon commission.

DEMIPHO
Do so, then; I have no wish to be striving against your opinion.

CHARINUS
aside . I'm all right, if, indeed, his adherence to that sentiment is immoveable and lasting.

DEMIPHO
aside . Why is it that he calls himself aside into counsel with himself? I'm not afraid now lest he should be able to come to know that I'm in love with her, because I've not as yet done anything in a foolish manner, as people in love are wont to do.

CHARINUS
aside . I' faith, the affair for the present is really quite safe; for I'm quite certain that he doesn't know anything about that mistress of mine; if he did know, his talk would have been different.

DEMIPHO
aside . Why don't I accost him about her?

CHARINUS

aside . Why don't I betake myself off hence? *Aloud.* I'm going to deliver the commissions from my friends to their friends. *Moves as if going.*

DEMIPHO
Nay, but stop; I still want to make a few enquiries of you first.

CHARINUS
Say what it is you wish.

DEMIPHO
Have you all along been well?

CHARINUS
Quite well all the time, so long, indeed, as I was there; but as soon as I had arrived here in harbour, I don't know what faintness it was came over me.

DEMIPHO
I' faith, I suppose it arose from sea-sickness; but it will be going off just now. But how say you? What servant-maid is this that you have brought from Rhodes for your mother?

CHARINUS
I've brought one.

DEMIPHO
Well, what sort of a woman is she as to appearance?

CHARINUS
Not an ill-favored one, i' faith.

DEMIPHO
How is she as to manners?

CHARINUS
In my way of thinking, I never saw one better.

DEN.
So, indeed, i' faith, she seemed to me when I saw her.

CHARINUS
How now, have you seen her, father?

DEMIPHO
I have seen her; but she doesn't suit our ways, and so she doesn't please me.

CHARINUS
Why so?

DEMIPHO
Because she hasn't a figure suitable to our establishment; we stand in need of no female servant but one who can weave, grind, chop wood, make yarn, sweep out the house, stand a beating, and who can have every day's victuals cooked for the household. This one will be able to do not any single one of these things.

CHARINUS
Why, in fact, for this reason I purchased her, to make a present of her to my mother.

DEMIPHO
Don't you be giving her, nor mention that you have brought her.

CHARINUS
aside . The Deities favour me.

DEMIPHO
aside . I'm shaking him by slow degrees. *Aloud.* But, what I omitted to say, — she can neither with due propriety follow your mother as an attendant; nor will I allow it.

CHARINUS
But why?

DEMIPHO
Because, with those good looks, it would be scandalous if she were to be following a matron when she's walking through the streets; all people would be staring, gazing, nodding, winking, hissing, twitching, crying out, be annoying, and singing serenades at our door; my door, perhaps, would be filled with the charcoal marks of her praises; and, according as persons are scandalizing at the present day, they might throw it in the teeth of my wife and myself, that we are carrying on the business of a Procurer. Now what occasion is there for this?

CHARINUS
Why, faith, you say what's just, and I agree with you. But what shall be done with her now?

DEMIPHO
Exactly; I'll buy for your mother some stout wench of a female slave, not a bad servant, but of ungainly figure, as befits the mistress of a family — either a Syrian or an Egyptian woman: she shall do the grinding, spin out the yarn, and stand a lashing; and on her account no disgrace at all will be befalling our doors.

CHARINUS
What then if she is restored to the person of whom she was purchased?

DEMIPHO
By no means in the world.

CHARINUS
He said that he would take her back, if she didn't suit.

DEMIPHO
There's no need of that; I don't want you to get into litigation, nor yet your honor to be called in question. I' troth, I would much rather, if any must be endured, put up with the loss myself, than that disgrace or scandal on account of a woman should be brought upon my house. I think that I am able to sell for you at a good profit.

CHARINUS
I' faith, so long, indeed, as you don't be selling her at a less price than I bought her at, father.

DEMIPHO
Do you only hold your tongue; there is a certain old gentleman who commissioned me to buy one for him of just that same appearance.

CHARINUS
But, father, a certain young man commissioned me to buy one for him of just that same appearance that she is of.

DEMIPHO
I think that I am able to dispose of her for twenty minæ.

CHARINUS
But, if I had chosen, there have been already seven-and-twenty minæ offered.

DEMIPHO
But I ——

CHARINUS
Nay, but I, I say ——

DEMIPHO
But you don't know what I was going to say; do hold your tongue. I can add three minæ even to that, so that there will be thirty. *Looks as though on one side at a distance.*

CHARINUS
What are you turning yourself towards?

DEMIPHO
Towards him who's making the purchase.

CHARINUS
staring about . Why, where in the world is this person?

DEMIPHO
Look there, I see him, yonder *pointing* ; he's bidding me even still to add five minæ.

CHARINUS
aside . By my troth, may the Gods send a curse upon him, whoever he is!

DEMIPHO
looking in the distance . There he is again, making a sign to me, even still, for me to add six minæ.

CHARINUS
My man is bidding seven minæ, for her, full weight, father. *Aside.* I' faith, he shall never this day outdo me.

DEMIPHO
He's bidding in vain; I will have her!

CHARINUS
But the other one made the first offer.

DEMIPHO
I care nothing for that.

CHARINUS
He bids fifty.

DEMIPHO
No, a hundred's the offer. Can't you desist from bidding against the determination of my mind. I' troth, you'll be having an immense profit, in such a way is this old gentleman for whom she's being purchased. He's not in his senses by reason of his love; whatever you ask, you'll get.

CHARINUS
I' faith, that young man, for whom I'm purchasing, is assuredly dying with distraction for love of her.

DEMIPHO
Troth, very much more so is that old gentleman, if you did but know it.

CHARINUS
I' faith, that old man never was nor ever will be more distracted with love than that young man, father, to whom I'm lending this assistance.

DEMIPHO
Do be quiet, I tell you; I'll see to that matter, that it's all right.

CHARINUS
How say you —— ?

DEMIPHO
What is it?

CHARINUS
I didn't take her for a slave; but it was he that took her for such.

DEMIPHO
Let me alone.

CHARINUS
By law you cannot put her up for sale.

DEMIPHO
I'll somehow see to that.

CHARINUS
And then besides, she's the common property of myself and another person; how do I know how he's disposed, whether he does wish or doesn't wish to sell her?

DEMIPHO
I'm sure he does wish.

CHARINUS
But, i' faith, I believe that there's a certain person who doesn't wish.

DEMIPHO
What matters that to me?

CHARINUS
Because it's right that he should have the disposal of his own property.

DEMIPHO
What is it you say?

CHARINUS
She is the common property of myself and another person; he isn't here at present.

DEMIPHO
You are answering me before I ask.

CHARINUS
You are buying, father, before I sell. I don't know, I say, whether he chooses to part with her or not.

DEMIPHO
But if she is purchased for that certain person who gave you the commission, will he choose it then? If I purchase her for that person who gave me the commission, will he then not choose it? You avail nothing. Never, on my faith, shall any person have her in preference to the person that I wish. That I'm resolved upon.

CHARINUS
Have you made up your mind that it is resolved upon?

DEMIPHO
Why, I'm going hence at once to the ship; there she shall be sold.

CHARINUS

Do you wish me to go there with you?

DEMIPHO
I don't wish you.

CHARINUS
You don't choose it, then.

DEMIPHO
It's better for you to give your earliest attention to the business which you've been commissioned upon.

CHARINUS
You are hindering me from doing so.

DEMIPHO
Then do you make your excuse that you have used all diligence. Don't you go to the harbour, I tell you that now.

CHARINUS
That shall be attended to.

DEMIPHO
aside . I'll be off to the harbour, and (I have need of caution lest he should find it out) I'll not buy her myself, but commission my friend Lysimachus; he said just now that he was going to the harbour. I'm delaying while I'm standing here. *(Exit.)*

CHARINUS, alone.

CHARINUS
wringing his hands, and crying aloud . I'm lost — I'm undone. They say that the Bacchanals tore Pentheus to pieces. I do believe that that was the merest trifle compared with the manner in which I am rent asunder in different ways. Why do I exist? Why don't I die? What good is there for me in life? I'm determined, I'll go to a doctor, and there I'll put myself to death by poison, since that is being taken from me for the sake of which I desire to remain in existence. *He is*

going off. Enter EUTYCHUS, from the house of LYSIMACHUS.

EUTYCHUS
Stop, prithee, stop, Charinus.

CHARINUS
turning . Who is it, that calls me back?

EUTYCHUS
Eutychus, your friend and companion, your nearest neighbour as well.

CHARINUS
You don’t know what a vast weight of my woes I am enduring.

EUTYCHUS
I do know. I listened to it all at the door: I know the whole matter.

CHARINUS
What is it that you know?

EUTYCHUS
Your father wishes to sell ——

CHARINUS
You have the whole matter.

EUTYCHUS
— Your mistress ——

CHARINUS
You know by far too much.

EUTYCHUS
— Against your wish.

CHARINUS
You know everything. But how do you know that this woman is my mistress?

EUTYCHUS
You yourself told me yesterday.

CHARINUS
Isn't it the fact that I had quite forgotten that I told you yesterday?

EUTYCHUS
It's not surprising it is so.

CHARINUS
I now consult you. Answer me; by what death do you think that I should die in preference?

EUTYCHUS
Won't you hold your peace? Take you care how you say that.

CHARINUS
What then do you wish me to say?

EUTYCHUS
Should you like me to trick your father nicely?

CHARINUS
I really should like it.

EUTYCHUS
Should you like me to walk to the harbour ——

CHARINUS
What, rather than that you should fly?

EUTYCHUS
And release the fair one for a sum.

CHARINUS
What, rather than you should pay her weight in gold?

EUTYCHUS
Whence is it to come?

CHARINUS
I'll entreat Achilles to lend me the gold with which Hector was ransomed

EUTYCHUS
Are you in your senses?

CHARINUS
I' faith, if I were in my senses, I shouldn't be seeking you for my physician.

EUTYCHUS
Do you wish her to be purchased for as high a price as he asks?

CHARINUS
Throw in something by way of surplus; even a thousand didrachms more than he shall demand.

EUTYCHUS
Now, do hold your peace. But what say you as to this? Whence will the money come, for you to give, when your father asks for it?

CHARINUS
It shall be found, it shall be sought out, something shall be done.

EUTYCHUS
You are worrying me to death. For I'm afraid of that "Something shall be done."

CHARINUS
Why won't you hold your tongue?

EUTYCHUS
You give your commands to one who is dumb.

CHARINUS
Is this matter sufficiently pointed out to you?

EUTYCHUS
Can’t you possibly be attending to something else?

CHARINUS
It isn’t possible.

EUTYCHUS
going . Kindly fare you well.

CHARINUS
I’ faith, I cannot fare well, before you come back to me.

EUTYCHUS
To better purpose, recover your senses.

CHARINUS
Farewell, and prevail, and be my preserver.

EUTYCHUS
I’ll do so. Wait for me at home.

CHARINUS
Do you take care, then, to betake yourself back just now with the booty. *(Exit EUTYCHUS, and CHARINUS goes into DEMIPHO’S house.)*

ACT III.

Enter LYSIMACHUS, with PASICOMPSA, weeping.

LYSIMACHUS
to himself . I've lent my assistance to my friend in a friendly manner; this piece of goods, which my neighbour requested me, I've purchased. *Turning to PASICOMPSA.* You are my own; then follow me. Don't weep. You are acting very foolishly; spoiling such eyes. Why, really you have more reason to laugh than to be crying.

PASICOMPSA
In the name of heaven, prithee, my good old gentleman, do tell me ——

LYSIMACHUS
Ask me what you please.

PASICOMPSA
Why have you bought me?

LYSIMACHUS
What, I, bought you? For you to do what you are bidden; in like manner what you bid me, I'll do.

PASICOMPSA
I am determined, to the best of my ability and skill, to do what I shall think you desire.

LYSIMACHUS
I shall bid you do nothing of laborious work.

PASICOMPSA
Why, really, for my part, my good old gentleman, I haven't learnt, i' faith, to carry burdens, or to feed cattle at the farm, or to nurse children.

LYSIMACHUS
If you choose to be a good girl, it shall be well for you.

PASICOMPSA
Then, i' faith, to my sorrow, I'm undone.

LYSIMACHUS
Why so?

PASICOMPSA
Because in the place from which I have been conveyed hither, it used to be well with the worthless.

LYSIMACHUS
aside . By my troth, her talk alone is worth more than the sum that she was purchased at. *To PASICOMPSA.* As though you would say that no woman is good.

PASICOMPSA
Indeed I don't say so; nor is it my way, to say a thing which I believe all people are acquainted with.

LYSIMACHUS
I want to ask this one thing of you.

PASICOMPSA
I'll answer you when you ask.

LYSIMACHUS
What say you now? What am I to say your name is?

PASICOMPSA
Pasicompsa.

LYSIMACHUS
The name was given you from your good looks. But what say you, Pasicompsa? Can you, if occasion should arise, spin a fine woof?

PASICOMPSA
I can.

LYSIMACHUS
If you know how to do a fine one, I'm sure you can spin a coarser one.

PASICOMPSA
For spinning, I fear no woman that's of the same age.

LYSIMACHUS
Upon my faith, I take it that you are good and industrious, since, young woman, now that you are grown up, you know how to do your duty.

PASICOMPSA
I' faith, I learned it from a skilful mistress. I won't let my work be called in question.

LYSIMACHUS
Well, thus the matter stands, i' faith. Look now, I'll give you a sheep for your own, one sixty years old.

PASICOMPSA
My good old gentleman, one so old as that?

LYSIMACHUS
It's of the Grecian breed. If you take care of it, it is a very good one; it is shorn very easily.

PASICOMPSA
For the sake of the compliment, whatever it is that shall be given me, I shall receive it with thanks.

LYSIMACHUS
Now, damsel, that you mayn't be mistaken, you are not mine; so don't think it.

PASICOMPSA
Prithee, tell me, then, whose I am?

LYSIMACHUS
You've been bought back for your own master. I've bought you back for him; he requested me to do so.

PASICOMPSA
My spirits have returned, if good faith is kept with me.

LYSIMACHUS
Be of good courage; this person will give you your liberty. I' troth, he did so dote upon you this day as soon as ever he had seen you.

PASICOMPSA
I' faith, it's now two years since he commenced his connexion with me. Now, as I'm sure that you are a friend of his, I'll disclose it.

LYSIMACHUS
How say you? Is it now two years since he formed the connexion with you?

PASICOMPSA
Certainly, it is; and we agreed, on oath, between ourselves, I with him, and he with me, that I would never have intercourse with any man except himself, nor he with any woman except myself.

LYSIMACHUS
Immortal Gods! Isn't he even to sleep with his wife?

PASICOMPSA
Prithee, is he a married man? He neither is nor will he be.

LYSIMACHUS
Indeed, I wish he wasn't. I' faith, the fellow has been committing perjury.

PASICOMPSA

No young man do I more ardently love.

LYSIMACHUS
Why, really he's a child, you simpleton; for, in fact, it's not so very long a time since his teeth fell out.

PASICOMPSA
What? His teeth?

LYSIMACHUS
It's no matter? Follow me this way, please; he requested that I would find you room for one day in my house, since my wife is away in the country. *He goes into his house, followed by PASICOMPSA.*

Enter DEMIPHO.

DEMIPHO
to himself . At last I've managed to ruin myself; a mistress has been purchased for me without the knowledge of my wife and son. I'm resolved on it; I'll have recourse again to former habits and enjoy myself. In my allotment of existence, almost now run through, the little that there remains of life, I'll cheer up with pleasure, wine, and love. For it's quite proper for this time of life to enjoy itself. When you are young, then, when the blood is fresh, it's right to devote your exertions to acquiring your fortune; and then when at last, you are an old man, you may set yourself at your ease; drink, and be amorous; this, the fact that you are living, is now so much profit. This, as I say, I'll carry out in deed. *Turning to his house.* Meanwhile, however, I'll take a look in-doors here at my house; my wife has been some time expecting me at home quite hungry: now, she'll be worrying me to death with her scolding, if I go in-doors. But, in fine, whatever comes of it, i' faith, I'll not go, but I'll first meet this neighbour of mine before I return home; I want him to hire some house for me, where this damsel may dwell. And, see, he's coming out of doors.

Enter LYSIMACHUS, from his house.

LYSIMACHUS

to PASICOMPSA, within . I'll bring him to you directly, if I meet him.

DEMIPHO
behind . He's meaning me.

LYSIMACHUS
turning about . How say you, Demipho?

DEMIPHO
Is the damsel at your house?

LYSIMACHUS
What do you suppose?

DEMIPHO
What if I go see her? *Moves towards the house.*

LYSIMACHUS
Why making such haste? Stay.

DEMIPHO
What am I to do?

LYSIMACHUS
What you ought to do; take care and consider.

DEMIPHO
Consider what? Why troth, for my own part, I think there's need for my doing this, going in-doors there, I mean.

LYSIMACHUS
What, is it so, you old wether? Would you be going in?

DEMIPHO
What should I do else?

LYSIMACHUS
First listen to this, and attend; there's something even before this that

I think it proper you should do. For if you now go in-doors to her, you'll be wishing to embrace her, chatting with her, and kissing her.

DEMIPHO
Really you know my feelings; you understand what I would be at.

LYSIMACHUS
You will be doing wrong.

DEMIPHO
What, with that which you love?

LYSIMACHUS
So much the less reason. Would you, full of hungriness, with a foul breath, a stinking old fellow, be kissing a woman? And wouldn't you, as you approached, be setting a female vomiting?

DEMIPHO
I' faith, I'm sure that you're in love, as you point out these things beforehand to me. What then, if I give a dinner? If you approve of this, let's lay hold of some cook, who may be cooking away a meal here at your house, even until the evening.

LYSIMACHUS
Well, I'm of that way of thinking. Now you are talking wisely, and like a lover.

DEMIPHO
Why are we standing here? Why then don't we be off and procure the provisions, that we may be comfortable?

LYSIMACHUS
For my part, I'll follow you. And, i' troth, you'll be finding out a lodging for her, if you are prudent; for, i' faith, she shan't be at my house a single day beyond the present; I'm afraid of my wife, lest, if she should return from the country to-morrow, she'll be finding her here. *(Exeunt.)*

Enter CHARINUS, from DEMIPHO's house.

CHARINUS
to himself . Am I not a wretched mortal, who can rest quietly nowhere? If I'm at home, my mind's abroad; but if I'm abroad, my mind's at home. To such a degree. has love kindled a flame in my breast and in my heart; did not the tears fall from my eyes, why then, I doubt, my head would be on fire. I cling to hope; safety I've lost; whether she'll return or no, I know not. If my father seizes her, as he has said, then my welfare is gone in exile; but if my companion has done what he promised, then my welfare has not departed. But still, even if Eutychus had had gouty feet, he could have been back from the harbour by this. This is a very great fault of his, that he is too slow, against the wishes of my feelings. But *looking towards the side* isn't this he whom I espy running? 'Tis he himself; I'll go meet him. *Clasps his hands.* Thou who art the overlooker of Gods and of men and the mistress of mortals as well, inasmuch as thou hast indulged me in this hope that I entertained, I do return thee thanks. Does any hope remain? Alas! I'm utterly undone. His countenance by no means pleases me! He moves along in sadness. My breast burns. I am in doubt. He shakes his head. Eutychus! *Enter EUTYCHUS.*

EUTYCHUS
Alas! Charinus. *He pants.*

CHARINUS
Before you take breath, in one word, speak out. Where am I? Here, or among the dead?

EUTYCHUS
You are neither among the dead nor here.

CHARINUS
I'm saved, immortality has been vouchsafed me — he has purchased her. He has nicely tricked my father. There's no one living more clever at gaining his purpose. Prithee, do tell me; if I'm neither here nor at Acheron, where am I?

EUTYCHUS
Nowhere in the world.

CHARINUS
I'm utterly undone! That speech has just put an end to me here. Whatever it is, do come to the material points of the matter.

EUTYCHUS
First of all, we are ruined.

CHARINUS
But why don't you in preference tell me that which I don't know? It is an annoying way of speaking, when you should despatch the business, to be beating about the bush.

EUTYCHUS
The damsel has been taken away from you.

CHARINUS
Eutychus, you are guilty of a capital offence.

EUTYCHUS
How so?

CHARINUS
Because you are killing your year's-mate and friend, a free citizen.

EUTYCHUS
May the Gods forbid it!

CHARINUS
You've thrust a sword into my throat; this moment I shall fall.

EUTYCHUS
Troth now, prithee, don't be desponding in mind.

CHARINUS
I have none to be desponding in. Tell on, then, the rest of your bad

news; for whom has she been purchased?

EUTYCHUS
I don't know. She had been already knocked down to the bidder and taken off by him, when I got to the harbour.

CHARINUS
Ah me! Already, indeed, have you heaped burning mountains of woe upon me. Proceed, executioner, torment me on, since you have once begun.

EUTYCHUS
This is not more a cause of anguish to yourself, than it has proved to me this day.

CHARINUS
Tell me, who bought her?

BUT.
I' faith, I do not know.

CHARINUS
Well, is this a good friend giving one his aid?

EUTYCHUS
What would you have me do?

CHARINUS
The same that you see me doing, die with grief. But did you make enquiry, what was the appearance of the person that had bought her? Perhaps the damsel might have been traced out by that means.

EUTYCHUS
Ah! wretch that I am ——

CHARINUS
Do cease lamenting; attend to that which you are now about.

EUTYCHUS
What have I done?

CHARINUS
Proved the destruction of myself, and with myself of your own word.

EUTYCHUS
The Gods know that that is not any fault of mine.

CHARINUS
A fine thing, indeed! You mention the Gods, who are absent, as witnesses; how am I to believe you in that?

EUTYCHUS
Why, it rests with your own self what to believe; with myself, what to say, that rests with me.

CHARINUS
On that point you are ready, so as to give answer like for like; but as to what you are requested, you are lame, blind, dumb, defective, and weak. You promised that you would trick my father; I myself supposed that I was entrusting the matter to a skilful person, and I entrusted it to an utter stone.

EUTYCHUS
What could I do?

CHARINUS
What could you do, do you ask me? You should have enquired, and asked who he was or whence he was, of what lineage; whether he was a citizen or a foreigner ——

EUTYCHUS
They said that he was a citizen of Attica.

CHARINUS
At least, you should have found out where he lives, if you couldn’t the name.

EUTYCHUS
No person was able to say he knew.

CHARINUS
But at least you should have enquired what was the appearance of the man.

EUTYCHUS
I did do so.

CHARINUS
Of what figure, then, did they say he was?

EUTYCHUS
I'll tell you: grey-headed, bandy-legged, pot-bellied, wide-mouthed, of stunted figure, with darkish eyes, lank jaws, splay-footed rather.

CHARINUS
You are mentioning to me not a human being, but a whole storehouse, I don't know what, of deformities. Is there anything else that you can tell about him?

EUTYCHUS
It is just as much as I know.

CHARINUS
I' troth, for sure, with his lank jaws he has caused my jaw to drop. I cannot endure it; I'm determined that I'll go hence in exile. But what state in especial to repair to, I'm in doubt; Megara, Eretria, Corinth, Chalcis, Crete, Cyprus, Sicyon, Cnidos, Zacynthus, Lesbos, or Bœotia.

EUTYCHUS
Why are you adopting that design?

CHARINUS
Why, because love is tormenting me.

EUTYCHUS
What say you as to this? Suppose, if when you have arrived there, whither you are now intending to go, you begin there to fall desperately in love, and there, too, you fail of success, then you'll be taking flight from there as well, and after that, again, from another place, if the same shall happen, what bounds, pray, will be set to your exile, what limits to your flight? What country or home can possibly be certain for you? Tell me that. Say now, if you leave this city, do you fancy that you'll leave your love here behind? If it is so fully taken as certain in your mind that so it will be, if you hold that as a point resolved upon, how much better is it for you to go away somewhere in the country, to be there, to live there, until the time when desire for her and passion have set you at liberty?

CHARINUS
Have you now said your say?

EUTYCHUS
I have said it.

CHARINUS
You have said it to no purpose; this is my full determination. I'll be off home, to pay my duty to my father and my mother; after that, unknown to my father, I'll fly from this country, or adopt some other plan. *Goes into DEMIPHO'S house, leaving EUTYCHUS alone*

EUTYCHUS
to himself . How suddenly he has taken himself off and gone away. Ah! wretch that I am! if he goes away, all will say that it has happened through my remissness. I'm determined at once to order as many criers as possible to be hired to search for her to find her; after that, I'll go to the Prætor forthwith, and beg him to give me search-warrant officers in all the quarters of the city; for I find that nothing else whatever is now left for me to do. *(Exit.)*

ACT IV.

Enter DORIPPA.

DORIPPA
to herself . Since a messenger came to me in the country from my husband, that he couldn't come into the country, I made up my mind, and came back to follow after him who fled from me. But *looking round* I don't see our old woman Syra following. Aye, look, there she comes at last. *with a bundle of green sprigs.*

DORIPPA
Why don't you go quicker?

SYRA
By my troth, I cannot; so great is this burden that I'm carrying.

DORIPPA
What burden?

SYRA
Fourscore years and four, and to that are added servitude, sweat, and thirst; these things as well which I am carrying weigh me down.

DORIPPA
Give me something, Syra, with which to decorate this altar of our neighbour.

SYRA
holding out a sprig . Present this sprig of laurel, then. DOR. Now do you go into the house.

SYRA
I'm going. *Goes into the house of LYSIMACHUS.*

DORIPPA
laying the sprig on the altar . Apollo, I pray thee that thou wilt

propitiously grant peace, safety, and health, unto our household, and that in thy propitiousness thou wilt show favour to my son. *rushes out of the house, clapping her hands.*

SYRA
I'm utterly undone! Wretch that I am, I'm ruined! Ah! wretched me!

DORIPPA
Prithee, are you quite in your senses? What are you howling for?

SYRA
Dorippa, my dear Dorippa!

DORIPPA
Prithee, why are you crying out?

SYRA
Some woman, I know not who, is here in-doors in the house.

DORIPPA
What? A woman?

SYRA
A harlot woman.

DORIPPA
Is it so, really?

SYRA
In serious truth. You know how to act very prudently, in not remaining in the country. A fool even could have found it out that she was the mistress of your very pretty husband.

DORIPPA
By heavens, I believe it.

SYRA
taking her arm . Step this way with me, that you, my Juno, may see

as well your rival Alcmena.

DORIPPA
I' troth, I certainly shall go there, as fast as I can. *They go into the house of LYSIMACHUS.*

Enter LYSIMACHUS.

LYSIMACHUS
to himself . Is this too little of a misfortune that Demipho's in love, that he must be extravagant as well? If he had been inviting ten men of highest rank to dinner, he has provided too much. But the cooks he directed in such a way just as at sea the time-keeper is wont to direct the rowers. I hired a Cook myself, but I'm surprised that he hasn't come as I directed him. But who's this, I wonder, that's coming out of my house? The door's opening. *He stands aside.*

Enter DORIPPA, from the house of LYSIMACHUS.

DORIPPA
weeping . No woman ever will be, or ever has been, more wretched than myself in being married to such a husband. Alas! unhappy that I am! Just see, to what a husband have you committed yourself and the property you have! Just see, to what a person I brought ten talents for a portion; that I should see these things, that I should endure these insults.

LYSIMACHUS
behind . I' troth, I'm undone; my wife's returned from the country already. I do believe she has seen the damsel in the house. But what she says I cannot distinctly hear from hence; I'll go nearer to her. *Approaches her.*

DORIPPA
Ah! woe to wretched me!

LYSIMACHUS
behind . Aye, and to me as well.

DORIPPA
I’m utterly undone!

LYSIMACHUS
behind . As for me, i’ faith, to my sorrow I’m downright undone! she has seen her. May all the Gods confound you, Demipho!

DORIPPA
I’ troth, this was it, why my husband wouldn’t go into the country.

LYSIMACHUS
behind . What shall I do now, but go up and speak to her? *Goes up to her.* The husband bids health to his wife. Are the country people becoming townsfolk?

DORIPPA
They are acting more decently than those who are not become country people.

LYSIMACHUS
Are the people in the country at all in fault?

DORIPPA
I’ faith, less so than the townsfolk, and much less mischief do they meet with for themselves.

LYSIMACHUS
But in what have the townsfolk done wrong? Tell me that.

DORIPPA
Whose woman is that in the house?

LYSIMACHUS
What, have you seen her?

DORIPPA
I have seen her.

LYSIMACHUS
Whose is she, do you ask?

DORIPPA
I shall find out, in spite of you; i' faith, I long to know. But you are trying me on purpose.

LYSIMACHUS
Do you wish me to tell you whose she is? She, she —— *Aside.* Ah me! upon my faith, I don't know what to say.

DORIPPA
Do you hesitate?

LYSIMACHUS
aside . I never saw one who did it more.

DORIPPA
But why don't you tell me?

LYSIMACHUS
Nay, but if I may ——

DORIPPA
You ought to tell me.

LYSIMACHUS
I cannot, you hurry me so; you press me as though were guilty.

DORIPPA
ironically . I know you are free from all guilt.

LYSIMACHUS
Speak out as boldly as you please.

DORIPPA
Tell me, then.

LYSIMACHUS

I, tell you?

DORIPPA
Why, it must be told, in spite of everything.

LYSIMACHUS
She is —— Do you wish me tell her name as well?

DORIPPA
You are trifling. I've caught you in the fact; you are guilty.

LYSIMACHUS
Guilty of what? If now I had no occasion for silence, now I shouldn't tell you. Why, this same woman is —

DORIPPA
Who is she?

LYSIMACHUS
She ——

DORIPPA
Marry, come up! don't you know who she is?

LYSIMACHUS
Why, yes, I do know. I've been chosen as an arbitrator with respect to her.

DORIPPA
An arbitrator? Now I know; you have invited her here to consult with you.

LYSIMACHUS
Why no; she has been given me as a deposit.

DORIPPA
ironically . I understand.

LYSIMACHUS

By my troth, it's not anything of that sort.

DORIPPA
You are clearing yourself too soon.

LYSIMACHUS
aside . Too much of a business have I met with; really I'm stuck fast.

Enter a COOK, at a distance, with SCULLIONS and provisions.

A COOK.
Make haste, get quickly on, for I've got to cook a dinner for an old gentleman in love. And, in fact, when I think of it again, it's to be cooked for ourselves, not him for whom we've been hired: for a person that's in love, if he has that with which he is in love, he esteems that as food, to see her, embrace her, kiss her, chat with her; but we, I trust, shall return well laden home. Step this way. But see, here's the old gentleman that hired us.

LYSIMACHUS
aside . Why, look! I'm undone! here's the Cook.

A COOK.
going up to LYSIMACHUS . We are come.

LYSIMACHUS
Be off!

A COOK.
How, be off?

LYSIMACHUS
in a low voice . Hush! Be off!

A COOK.
What, I, be off?

LYSIMACHUS

Be off, I say.

A COOK.
Are you not going to have a dinner?

LYSIMACHUS
We are full already.

DORIPPA
But ——

LYSIMACHUS
aside . I'm utterly undone.

DORIPPA
What say you? Have those persons ordered these things to be brought to you as well, between whom you were appointed arbitrator?

A COOK.
Is this person *pointing to DORIPPA* your mistress, whom a little time since you told me you were in love with, when you were buying the provisions?

LYSIMACHUS
Won't you hold your tongue?

A COOK.
A very pretty figure of a woman.! I' faith, she does love a sweetheart.

LYSIMACHUS
Won't you be off to perdition?

A COOK.
She's not amiss.

LYSIMACHUS
But you are amiss.

A COOK.

I’ troth, I do fancy she’s a nice bed-fellow.

LYSIMACHUS
Won’t you be off? I’m not the person that hired you just now.

A COOK.
How’s that? Nay but, upon my faith, you are that very man.

LYSIMACHUS
aside . Alas wretch that I am!

A COOK.
Your wife’s in the country, I suppose, whom you were saying a little time ago you hated full as much as vipers.

LYSIMACHUS
I, said that to you?

A COOK.
Aye, to me, upon my faith.

LYSIMACHUS
So may Jupiter love me, wife, I never did say that.

DORIPPA
Do you deny that as well?

A COOK.
to DORIPPA . He didn’t say he hated you, but his wife.

DORIPPA
This is made clear, that you detest me.

LYSIMACHUS
But I deny it.

A COOK.
And he said that his wife was in the country.

LYSIMACHUS
pointing to DORIPPA . This is she. Why are you annoying me?

A COOK.
Because you say that you don't know me. Are you afraid of her?

LYSIMACHUS
I'm wise in being so; for she's my only companion.

A COOK.
Do you wish to use my services?

LYSIMACHUS
I don't wish.

A COOK.
Give me my pay.

LYSIMACHUS
Ask for it to-morrow; it shall be given you; for the present, be off. *Aside.* Alas, wretch that I am! I now find that that old saying is a true one, that some bad comes through a bad neighbour.

A COOK.
to the SCULLIONS . Why are we standing here?

LYSIMACHUS
Why don't you be gone?

A COOK.
aside to LYSIMACHUS . If any inconvenience happens to you, that's not my fault.

LYSIMACHUS
aside to the COOK . Why, you are utterly ruining wretched me

A COOK.
aside to LYSIMACHUS . I understand now what you want. You

mean, you wish me to go away from here.

LYSIMACHUS
aside to the COOK . I do wish it, I say.

A COOK.
aside to LYSIMACHUS . I'll be off. Pay me a drachma.

LYSIMACHUS
aside to the COOK . It shall be paid.

A COOK.
aside to LYSIMACHUS . Then order it to be paid me, please. It can be paid in the meantime, while they are putting down the provisions.

LYSIMACHUS
aside to the COOK . Why don't you be off? Can't you cease being troublesome? *Slips the money into his hand.*

A COOK.
to the SCULLIONS . Come, do you set down those provisions before the feet of that old gentleman. These baskets I'll order to be fetched from your house either by-and-by or else to-morrow. *To the SCULLIONS.* Do you follow me. *Exeunt, having set down the provisions.*

LYSIMACHUS
Perhaps you are surprised at that Cook, that he came and brought these things. I'll tell you why it is.

DORIPPA
I'm not surprised if you do anything wrongful or criminal; and, by heavens, I'll not put up with it, that I am married thus unfortunately, and that harlots are brought into my house in this way. Syra, go ask my father, in my name, to come here directly together with you.

SYRA
I'll go.

LYSIMACHUS
Prithee, wife, you don't know what the matter is. In set form now will I make oath, that I have never had anything to do with her. *Exit SYRA.* What, is Syra gone now? By heaven, I'm undone! *DORIPPA goes into the house.*

LYSIMACHUS
to himself . But, see, she's off as well! Woe to wretched me! Then, neighbour Demipho, may the Gods and Goddesses confound you, together with your mistress and your intriguings! He has most unjustly loaded me with suspicions; he has stirred up enemies against me. At home my wife is most infuriated. I'll be off to the Forum, and tell this to Demipho, that I'll drag this woman by the hair into the street, unless he takes her hence out of this house wherever he chooses. *Goes to the door and calls.* Hark you! wife, wife! although you're angry at me, you'll order, if you are wise, these things to be carried hence indoors. We shall be able by-and-by to dine all the better upon the same.

Enter SYRA and EUTYCHUS, at a distance, on opposite sides.

SYRA
to herself . Whither my mistress sent me, to her father —— , he's not at home; they said that he has gone off into the country. Now, I'll take home this answer. I' faith, the women do live upon hard terms, and, wretched creatures, on much more unjust ones than the men. For if a husband has been keeping a mistress without the knowledge of his wife, if the wife comes to know it, the husband gets off with impunity; if, unknown to the husband, the wife goes from the house out of doors, a pretext arises for the husband, the marriage is dissolved. I wish the law was the same for the husband as for the wife; for the wife that is a good one, is content with one husband; why, any the less, should the husband be content with one wife? By my troth, I'd give cause, if men were punished in the same way (if any one should be keeping a mistress unknown to his wife), as those women are repudiated who are guilty of a slip, that there should be more divorced men than there are women now.

EUTYCHUS
to himself, apart . I'm quite tired with hunting the whole city through; I find nothing whatever about this woman. But my mother has returned from the country; for I see Syra standing before the house. Syra!

SYRA
Who is it that's calling me?

EUTYCHUS
'Tis I, your master and foster-child.

SYRA
turning round . Save you, my foster-child. EUT. Has my mother returned from the country then? Answer me.

SYRA
Aye, for her own especial sake and that of the family.

EUTYCHUS
What is it that's the matter?

SYRA
That very pretty father of yours has brought a mistress into the house.

EUTYCHUS
How say you?

SYRA
Your mother, on arriving from the country, found her at home.

EUTYCHUS
By my troth, I didn't think my father was a person for those practices. Is the woman now even still in-doors?

SYRA
Even still.

EUTYCHUS
Do you follow me. *He goes into the house of LYSIMACHUS.*

[

SYRA
to herself . How now? Do I see Peristrata here, the wife of Demipho? She quickens her pace; she glances about with her eyes; she turns herself round; she inclines her neck on one side. I'll observe from here what matter she's about; it's something of importance, whatever scent she's upon. *Stands aside.*

Enter PERISTRATA and LYCISSA, from the house of DEMIPHO.

PERISTRATA
The Goddess Astarte is the might of mortals and of the Gods, their life, their health; she, the same, who is likewise their death, destruction, downfall, the seas, the earth, the heaven, and the stars. Whatever Temples of Jove we inhabit, they are guided by her nod; her do they obey; to her do they pay regard; what displeases her, the other Deities do quickly put aside. Whatever pleases her, that, all things, which live and have sense, do pursue. Some she tortures, destroys; others, with her own milk does she nourish and raise aloft; but those whom she tortures, they live and enjoy their senses; those whom she hastens to rear and raise aloft, these last indeed do perish forthwith, and to their sorrow use their senses. Then, well-wishers, they lie prostrate, objects of dislike they bite the ground, grovel upon their faces, roar out, and make a riot; and when they think they live, then in especial do they rush on to ruin, then, then do they show eagerness in the pursuit of the object beloved; young men stumble, aged men likewise are led away. They love themselves; the object which they love, they wish to be loved and known. But if at that age they begin to fall in love, much more grievous is their madness. But if they do not love, then they hate, they are morose, too, and wayward; tattlers, haters, ill-disposed, passionate, envious for themselves and theirs. What they have formerly been shamelessly guilty of themselves, if it is done in a more quiet way, fathers do not

tolerate as they ought to do; but they proclaim it, and indecently cry it out aloud.

SYRA
apart . So far as I understand, Demipho is treating this lady badly too.

PERISTRATA
This is the truth. My son is in love and is dying; when his father came to know of it, he was enraged beyond bounds. What insanity is this? This same husband of mine at one time packed my son off to Rhodes to traffic; now, according to the news Acanthio brings, he'll be betaking himself into banishment. O unjust father! O unfortunate son! whither will you betake yourself? Where will you leave your mother? Shall I pass my life bereft? Shall I lose my son? I will not endure it. Has his father sold her? Wherever she shall be found, the mother will redeem her. Do you tell me, Lycissa, do they suppose that she was brought into this neighbourhood?

LYCISSA
pointing to the house of LYSIMACHUS . To that, I fancy; to the house of a certain old gentleman, a friend.

PERISTRATA
Here, there is no one that 1 know of besides Lysimachus.

SYRA
apart . They are mentioning Lysimachus. It's a wonder if the old fellows, who are neighbours, haven't been going halves in the same nest.

PERISTRATA
I'll go look for Dorippa, his wife. *The door of the house of LYSIMACHUS opens.*

LYCISSA
Why go look for her? Don't you see her?

PERISTRATA
Indeed, I do see her. Let's listen; she's muttering something in a passion, I know not what, to herself. *They stand aside.*

Enter DORIPPA, from the house of LYSIMACHUS.

DORIPPA
to herself . Syra hasn't come back, whom, poor wretch, it's now a long time since I sent to fetch my father; in her very slowness, she has either hardened into a stone, or she has stopped from swelling with the sting of a serpent.

SYRA
apart . I'm undone; here's my mistress, she's looking after me.

DORIPPA
continuing . I cannot remain at home; my eyes cannot abide that pretty young harlot; I would have shut her out of doors, but my son Eutychus prevented me. Still, I shan't altogether believe the news he brings.

LYCISSA
apart . Do you hear, mistress?

PERISTRATA
apart . I hear; let her go on.

LYCISSA
apart . I'll let her. DOR. *to herself* . He says that she has come hither to our house for the sake of an old gentleman, a friend; that he has her for sale, so that he may withdraw her from his son, who's in love with her. This really is a falsehood, either in my husband or my son; the accounts differ. The husband says that she was given him as a deposit; but the son says that she's on sale.

SYRA
apart . I'll go meet her on a sudden, that she mayn't find out that I've been loitering.

DORIPPA
In this matter I shan't believe my son, who's acting in compliance with his father; for, for him, like a regular cuckoo, has he determined to tell abundance of lies: for my own part I shall believe the Cook, in preference. But see, here's Syra. How the old witch does run. Syra!

SYRA
Who's calling me? *Stares around her.*

DORIPPA
The Gods send a plague upon you!

SYRA
Mistress, if you are wise, bestow this upon your rival and your husband in preference.

DORIPPA
For saying that, I'm no longer angry with you. But where's your father? Why does he delay? Does gout hinder the man?

SYRA
He's lame with neither gout nor chalk-stones, whom his feet carry into the country.

DORIPPA
Not at home?

SYRA
No.

DORIPPA
Where then?

SYRA
They say he's in the country, and that it's uncertain whether he'll return to-day, he has such a large account with his bailiff.

DORIPPA

Everything is befalling me this day contrary to my wishes. I shan't live till the evening, unless I drive that hussy away from the house. *She turns to the door.* I'm going home.

LYCISSA
apart . The mistress is going away.

PERISTRATA
apart . What, going away? Call her.

LYCISSA
calling . Dorippa! Dorippa!

DORIPPA
turning round . What nuisance is this? Who's calling me back?

PERISTRATA
I'm not a nuisance, but a well-wisher; and it's your friend Peristrata addresses you. Prithee, do stay.

DORIPPA
Why, Peristrata — i' faith, I didn't know you: dreadful vexation is tormenting and agitating me.

PERISTRATA
This I enquire about — prithee don't deny me. I heard you just now; tell me what annoyance is troubling you.

DORIPPA
Peristrata, so may the Gods prosper your only son, do kindly lend me your attention; none could be given me more agreably: our ages are alike; together we grew up; we have husbands alike in age; with no one do I converse with greater pleasure. I'm really annoyed with good reason. What now would your feelings be, if at this time of life your husband Demipho were to bring a mistress before your eyes?

PERISTRATA
Has he brought one?

DORIPPA
So it is.

PERISTRATA
She's at your house?

DORIPPA
At my house; aye, and cooks were hired; a banquet was being prepared, if my coming hadn't upset everything. Venus and Cupid are tormenting the wretched old fellow at an unseasonable time.

PERISTRATA
But these things are trifles, Dorippa. I wish that I wasn't more wretched.

DORIPPA
Trifles?

PERISTRATA
Really trifles.

DORIPPA
What worse could your husband do?

PERISTRATA
Aye, worse than worse.

DORIPPA
What is it? Prithee do say. As you to me, so I to you, let's give advice to each other what needs to be done, It's an old saying, that, "he's truly wise who is wise at the risk of another."

PERISTRATA
Dorippa, I have an only son; do you know that?

DORIPPA
I do know it.

PERISTRATA
Him his father some time ago packed off from his own house to Rhodes.

DORIPPA
For what reason?

PERISTRATA
Because he was in love.

DORIPPA
For that very thing?

PERISTRATA
Yes, and the very same thing now as well — inasmuch as he had brought a female slave here, his father coming to know of it, took her away, and put her up for sale.

DORIPPA
Aye, aye, I know it; my son told me the truth. I fancied she was the mistress of my husband. To whom was she entrusted?

PERISTRATA
To a certain old gentleman in this neighbourhood, his friend. I think that he has no other friend here except your husband.

DORIPPA
aside . It certainly is she. *To PERISTRATA.* What does your son?

PERISTRATA
He declares that he'll leave this city.

DORIPPA
The matter's in a safe position. What if he finds her?

PERISTRATA
I imagine he'll stay.

DORIPPA
Beyond expectation we are saved; don't doubt it; she's at my house.

PERISTRATA
At your house? It was she, I suppose, about whom I heard you talking just now.

DORIPPA
It was she.

PERISTRATA
O well done; I love you with reason; you've restored me my son. Do let me see her.

DORIPPA
Let's go in-doors then.

PERISTRATA
Let's go. *Turning round.* Come here, Lycissa. Do you go tell these things to Acanthio. I'll go here to Dorippa's house. *Exit LYCISSA. DORIPPA, PERISTRATA, and SYRA go into the house of LYSIMACHUS.*

ACT V.

Enter CHARINUS, from the house of DEMIPHO, in a travelling habit.

CHARINUS
looking towards the door . O higher and lower portions of the threshold, now both of you farewell. This day for the last time do I raise this foot within my father's house. The ease, the enjoyment, the in-dwelling, the habitation of this house is henceforth for me cut off, destroyed, and alienated. I am undone! The household Gods of my parents, the Lar the father of the family, to you do I recommend, that you will kindly protect the possessions of my parents. I shall now seek other household Gods for myself, another Lar, another city, another state. The people of Attica I do detest; for where worse manners are on the increase every day, where, those who are friends, those who are faithless, you are not able, to distinguish, and where that is torn away from you, which especially pleases your taste, there, in fact, if a kingdom were given one, that country is not desirable. *Stands aside in deep thought.*

Enter EUTYCUHS, from the house of LYSIMACHUS, at a distance.

EUTYCHUS
to himself . Thou who art the overlooker of Gods and of men, and the mistress of mortals as well, inasmuch as thou hast indulged me in this hope that I entertained, I do return thee thanks. What Deity is there now that is joyous with gladness like mine? That was at home which I was in search of. There did I find six companions, life, friendship, my native land, festivity, mirth, and jollity. On finding these, at the same moment did I utterly destroy ten very bad things, wrath, hatred, folly, ruin, perverseness, grief, tears, exile, want, and loneliness. Ye Gods, I pray you grant me a speedy opportunity of meeting him.

CHARINUS
to himself, not seeing EUTYCHUS . I'm ready prepared, as you see.

Pride I cast aside; I'm my own companion, attendant, horse, groom, esquire; I'm my own master, I, too, obey myself; for my own self do I carry what I require. O Cupid! how powerful art thou. For easily dost thou render any one resolute through thy deeds, and then again, the same person diffident forthwith from being over bold.

EUTYCHUS
to himself . I'm thinking which way to run in search of him.

CHARINUS
continuing . The matter's resolved upon, that I'll seek her everywhere, wherever in the world she has been carried off from hence; and neither shall any river stand in my way, nor mountain, nor the sea, indeed, nor heat, nor cold; I dread neither wind nor hail; the torrents of rain I'll submit to; labour, heat, and thirst, will I endure. I'll neither stop nor rest anywhere at night, or in the day, assuredly, before I shall have met with either my mistress or my death.

EUTYCHUS
looking round . Some voice, I know not who's, flew to my ear.
CHAR. *continuing* . You do I invoke, ye Lares of the roads, that you will kindly lend me aid.

EUTYCHUS
seeing CHARINUS . Jupiter! isn't that Charinus?

CHARINUS
turning round . Fellow-citizens, fare ye well.

EUTYCHUS
aloud . Charinus, stop, this instant.

CHARINUS
Who calls me back?

EUTYCHUS
Hope, Safety, Victory.

CHARINUS
What do you want with me?

EUTYCHUS
To go along with you.

CHARINUS
Look for another companion; these companions that have possession of me, will not part with me.

EUTYCHUS
Who are they?

CHARINUS
Care, misery, sickness, tears, and lamentation.

EUTYCHUS
Drive away those companions, and look this way and return.

CHARINUS
If indeed you wish to speak to me, do you follow. *Moves on.*

EUTYCHUS
Stop, this instant!

CHARINUS
You do amiss, in delaying me as I haste; the sun is setting.

EUTYCHUS
If you would make haste in this direction, just as you are hastening in that one, you'd be doing more rightly; this way there is now a prospering gale, only tack about. Here is a fair Westerly breeze; there is a showery Southern blast. The one causes a calm; the other stirs up all the waves. Betake yourself towards the land, Charinus, in this direction. Don't you see right opposite? Black clouds and showers are coming on. Look now to the left, how full the heaven is of brightness. Don't you see right opposite?

CHARINUS
He has thrown religious scruples in my way; I'll betake myself in that direction. *Turns towards EUTYCHUS.*

EUTYCHUS
You are wise. O Charinus, turn your steps, and turn your feet as well, in the opposite direction, Extend your arm. Catch hold of me. Do you hold me new?

CHARINUS
I'm holding you.

EUTYCHUS
Hold on, then. Whither now were you going?

CHARINUS
Into banishment.

EUTYCHUS
What to do there?

CHARINUS
As a wretched person would.

EUTYCHUS
Don't fear; this instant shall I restore you to joyousness before you go away.

CHARINUS
I'm going. *Moves.*

EUTYCHUS
A thing that you especially long to hear, the same shall you hear for you to rejoice at. Stay this instant; I'm come as a friend, full of the kindest feelings.

CHARINUS
What is it?

EUTYCHUS
Your mistress ——

CHARINUS
What of her?

EUTYCHUS
I know where she is.

CHARINUS
Prithee, do you?

EUTYCHUS
She's safe and sound.

CHARINUS
Where is she safe?

EUTYCHUS
I know where.

CHARINUS
I'd much rather I did.

EUTYCHUS
Can't you possibly be calm in your feelings?

CHARINUS
What if my feelings are agitated?

EUTYCHUS
I'll bring them for you into a safe and tranquil state; don't you fear.

CHARINUS
Prithee * * * do say where she is — where you've seen her. Why are you mute? Speak — you are torturing to death wretched me by your silence.

EUTYCHUS

She isn't far from here.

CHARINUS
Why then don't you point her out, if you see her?

EUTYCHUS
I' faith, I don't see her at this moment; but I saw her just now.

CHARINUS
Why, then, don't you cause me to see her?

EUTYCHUS
I will cause it.

CHARINUS
That means a long time for one in love.

EUTYCHUS
Are you still in apprehension? I'll disclose it all. No person is there living more beloved by me than is he who has got her; nor is there one to whom it is right that I should be a better wisher.

CHARINUS
I don't care about that; I'm looking for her.

EUTYCHUS
About her, then, I'm telling you. Really, this has not come into my mind but this moment, to tell it you ——

CHARINUS
Tell me, then, where she is.

EUTYCHUS
In our house.

CHARINUS
If you are telling the truth, a worthy house, and aptly built, I deem it. But how am I to credit that? Have you seen her; or do you speak

from hearsay?

EUTYCHUS
I've seen her myself.

CHARINUS
Who took her to your house?

EUTYCHUS
Why, you're asking an unfair question. What matters it to you with whom she came?

CHARINUS
So long as she's there ——

EUTYCHUS
She certainly is.

CHARINUS
Then, for these tidings, do you wish whatever you please.

EUTYCHUS
What if I do wish?

CHARINUS
Pray to the Gods to bring its fulfilment.

EUTYCHUS
You are laughing at me.

CHARINUS
My fortunes, in fine, are redeemed, if I can see her. But why don't I lay aside this garb? *Goes to the door of DEMIPHO'S house, and calls.* Hallo, somebody, come here this instant out of doors. Come out, and bring me thence a cloak this way.

EUTYCHUS
Well, now how much you do gratify me.

CHARINUS
to a BOY who enters, bringing his cloak . You boy, who have come with such speed, take my scarf *giving it* , and now stand aside there; that, if these things are not true, I may hasten to go upon this intended journey. *To EUTYCHUS.* Are you telling the truth?

EUTYCHUS
Really, Charinus, you are not ashamed of anything. Don't you believe me?

CHARINUS
For my part, I really do believe everything that you tell me. But why don't you introduce me to her, that I may see her?

EUTYCHUS
Wait a little.

CHARINUS
Why am I to wait?

EUTYCHUS
It's not a convenient moment to go into the house.

CHARINUS
You are torturing me to death.

EUTYCHUS
There's no need, I tell you, for you to go into the house just now.

CHARINUS
Answer me-for what reason?

EUTYCHUS
She's not at leisure.

CHARINUS
Why so?

EUTYCHUS
Because it isn't convenient to her.

CHARINUS
Is it so? Not convenient to her who loves me, and whom I love in return? He's trifling with me in every way. I'm too foolish to believe him. He's only delaying me. *Turns to the BOY.* I'll put on my scarf again.

EUTYCHUS
Stop a little, and listen to this.

CHARINUS
taking off the cloak . You boy, take this cloak, please. *Puts on the travelling scarf.*

EUTYCHUS
Really this hasn't come but this moment into my mind to tell it you. My mother's dreadfully angry with my father, because he has brought into the house a harlot before her very eyes, while she was away in the country. She suspects that she's his own mistress.

CHARINUS
not attending to him . I've taken up my belt. *Puts it on.*

EUTYCHUS
She's now enquiring into this matter in-doors.

CHARINUS
inattentive . Now my sword's in hand. *Taking it from the BOY.*

EUTYCHUS
But if I were now to introduce you?

CHARINUS
inattentive . I'll take my bottle, and be off from here. *Moves.*

EUTYCHUS

Stop, stop, Charinus!

CHARINUS
You are mistaken; you can't deceive me.

EUTYCHUS
And, i' faith, I have no wish.

CHARINUS
Why, then, don't you allow me to proceed upon my journey?

EUTYCHUS
I won't let you.

CHARINUS
I'm delaying myself. Boy, do you this instant be off hence in-doors. *The BOY goes into the house.* Now I've ascended the chariot; now I've taken the reins in my hands. *Imitating the action of a charioteer.*

EUTYCHUS
You are not in your senses.

CHARINUS
Feet of mine, why don't ye betake yourselves into the chariot, straight for Cyprus, since my father determines on my banishment?

EUTYCHUS
You are silly. Prithee, don't be saying this.

CHARINUS
as though to himself . I'm resolved to persist — to use my endeavours to seek her out where she is.

EUTYCHUS
Why, she's at our house.

CHARINUS
as though to himself . For what that person said, he told a falsehood

in it.

EUTYCHUS
Really, I told you the truth.

CHARINUS
continuing . Now I've come to Cyprus.

EUTYCHUS
Nay, but follow me, that you may see her whom you are looking for. *Moves towards his FATHER'S house.*

CHARINUS
pretending not to hear . Enquiring there, I didn't find her. EUT. I'll not care then for my mother's anger.

CHARINUS
still pretending . I'll still go on to seek her. Now I've got to Chalcis; I see there my former host at Zacynthus; I tell him why I've come thither; I make enquiry if he has heard say who has brought her thither, who has got possession of her.

EUTYCHUS
Why don't you cease that nonsense, and step with me this way indoors?

CHARINUS
still pretending . My host answered that figs grew, not bad ones, at Zacynthus.

EUTYCHUS
He didn't say false there.

CHARINUS
continuing . But he says that he has heard about my mistress, that she's here at Athens.

EUTYCHUS

Really, this Zacynthian is quite a Calchas.

CHARINUS
continuing . I get aboard ship, and start at once. I'm now at home; now I've returned from banishment. My friend, Eutychus *turning towards him* , greetings to you! How have you been? How are my parents? Are they well? Do you come to my mother, you say — you invite me kindly; you speak politely. At your house to-morrow; for the present at home. So it is proper; so it ought to be done.

EUTYCHUS
How now? What are you dreaming about? This man's not in his senses.

CHARINUS
Why don't you, as a friend, make haste to cure me then?

EUTYCHUS
Follow me, please.

CHARINUS
running close behind him . I'm following.

EUTYCHUS
turning round . Softly, pray; you are treading on my heels. Don't you hear me?

CHARINUS
I've heard you for some time past.

EUTYCHUS
I want a reconciliation to be made between my father and mother; for now she's in a passion ——

CHARINUS
pushing him . Only do go on. EUT. About that woman ——

CHARINUS

pushing him . Only do go on.

EUTYCHUS
Therefore take care ——

CHARINUS
pushing him . Nay, but do go on then; I'll make her as mild as Juno is when she's kind to Jupiter. *They go into the house of LYSIMACHUS.*

Enter DEMIPHO and LYSIMACHUS.

LYSIMACHUS
[Demipho, this saying of the wise, I think you have often heard, "Pleasure is the bait for misfortune;" because, by it, not less are men aught than are fishes with the hook Although aged people fly from it, still you don't pay that regard to your old age: since it hasn't even withdrawn love from you, but has forced you to it even more vehemently. Wherefore it utterly confounds yourself and your understanding and your mind, and dazzles your eyesight. Myself too have you brought into great trouble, and I know not what to do,

DEMIPHO
Lysimachus, this is the will of the Gods, not of men. If you reflect upon this with yourself, you will be of opinion that you are not doing right, in censuring so heavily a person your friend and the sharer of your secrets.] As though you yourself had never done anything like this action.

LYSIMACHUS
By heavens, never. I took care not to do anything: wretch that I am, I am scarcely alive; for my wife is lying all in a ferment about her.

DEMIPHO
But I'll undertake to clear you, so that she mayn't be angry.

LYSIMACHUS
Follow me — but I see my son coming out.

Enter EYTUCHUS, from the house of LYSIMACHUS.

EUTYCHUS
as he comes out, to CHARINUS, within . I'll go to my father, that he may know my mother's wrath is appeased. I'll return just now.

LYSIMACHUS
to DEMIPHO . The beginning pleases me. *Going up to EUTYCHUS.* What are you about? How goes it, Eutychus?

EUTYCHUS
Extremely opportunely have you both met me.

LYSIMACHUS
What's the matter?

EUTYCHUS
Your wife is peaceful and appeased. Give me your right hands this moment. *Shakes hands with them both.*

LYSIMACHUS
The Gods are favouring me.

EUTYCHUS
to DEMIPHO . I bring you word that you have got no mistress.

DEMIPHO
The Gods confound you. Why, prithee, what affair is this?

EUTYCHUS
I'll tell you. Give your attention then, both of you.

LYSIMACHUS
Well then, we are giving you our attention, both of us.

EUTYCHUS
Those who are born of a good family, if they are of bad tendencies, by their own faultiness withdraw nobleness from their rank, and

disgrace their disposition.

DEMIPHO
He says what's true.

LYSIMACHUS
Then it's to yourself he says it.

EUTYCHUS
For this reason is this the more true; for at this time of life, it wasn't just for you to take away from your son, a young man, his mistress, purchased with his own money.

DEMIPHO
How say you? Is she the mistress of Charinus?

EUTYCHUS
aside . How the rogue does dissemble.

DEMIPHO
Why, he said that he had bought her as a maidservant for his mother.

EUTYCHUS
Was it for that reason, then, you bought her, you young lover, you old boy?

LYSIMACHUS
Very well said, i' troth! Proceed, proceed. I'll stand by him here on the other side. Let's both load him well with such speeches as he's worthy of.

DEMIPHO
aside . I'm done for. EUT. Who has done an injustice so great to his blameless son; whom, in fact, upon my faith, I brought back home just when he was setting out in self-banishment; for he was going into exile.

DEMIPHO

Has he gone then?

LYSIMACHUS
What, do you speak, you hobgoblin? At this time of life you ought to abstain from those pursuits.

DEMIPHO
I confess it; undoubtedly I've acted wrong.

EUTYCHUS
What, do you speak, you hobgoblin? You ought at this time of life to have done with these guilty practices. Just as the seasons of the year, so different lines of conduct befit different ages; but if this is proper, that old fellows should be wenching in their old age, where in the world is our common welfare?

DEMIPHO
Alas! wretch that I am! I'm undone.

EUTYCHUS
The young men are more in the habit of giving their attention to following those pursuits.

DEMIPHO
Troth, now, prithee, do take her to yourselves, with pigs and with basket.

EUTYCHUS
Restore her to your son; let him have her, now, as he wishes.

DEMIPHO
So far as I'm concerned, he may have her.

EUTYCHUS
High time, i' faith, since you haven't the power of doing otherwise.

DEMIPHO
For this injury let him take what satisfaction he likes; only do you

make peace, I beg of you, that he mayn't be angry with me. I' faith, if I had known it, or if, indeed, he had told me in the slightest way of joke that he was in love with her, I should never have proceeded to take her away from him so in love. Enitychus, you are his companion, preserve and rescue me, I beg of you. Make this old fellow your client. You shall say that I'm mindful of a kindness.

LYSIMACHUS
Entreat him that he'll pardon his offences and his youthful age.

DEMIPHO
Heyday now, are you still persisting in inveighing against me with your airs? I trust that a like opportunity will befall me as well for returning you a similar compliment.

LYSIMACHUS
I've long made an end of those pursuits.

DEMIPHO
And really so shall I from this time forward.

LYSIMACHUS
Not a bit of it. Through usage your inclinations will be leading you to it again.

DEMIPHO
Prithee, do now be satisfied. Rather, scourge me with thongs even, if you like.

LYSIMACHUS
You say right. But that your wife will do, when she comes to know of this.

DEMIPHO
There's no need for her to come to know of it.

EUTYCHUS
What's that? She shan't come to know of it; don't be afraid. Let's go

in-doors; this place isn't a suitable one for your practices, for there to be persons to overhear who are passing through the street, while we are talking.

DEMIPHO
Why, faith, you say what's right; that way the story will be shorter. Let's be off

EUTYCHUS
Your son is in-doors here at our house.

DEMIPHO
It's very good. We'll pass that way through the garden home.

LYSIMACHUS
Eutychus, I want this affair to be settled before I set my foot again within doors.

EUTYCHUS
What is it?

LYSIMACHUS
Each person thinks about his own concerns. Answer me this: do you know for certain that your mother isn't angry with me?

EUTYCHUS
I do know it.

LYSIMACHUS
Take care.

EUTYCHUS
Trust me for it. Are you satisfied?

LYSIMACHUS
I am. But still, troth now, prithee, do take care.

EUTYCHUS

Don’t you believe me?

LYSIMACHUS
Yes, I do believe you; but still I’m dreadfully afraid.

DEMIPHO
Let’s go in-doors.

EUTYCHUS
Aye, but I think we must pronounce. the law for the old men before we depart, on what terms they are to keep check upon themselves and to be continent. Whoever shall be sixty years of age, if we know of any one, whether husband or, i’ faith, whether bachelor, in fact, who goes a wenching, upon these terms shall we deal with him; we shall deem him a fool. And, i’ faith, so far as we’re concerned, he shall be in want who has squandered away his property. And let no one hereafter forbid his youthful son to be in love and to keep a mistress, so it be done in a decent manner. If he shall forbid him, let him, unknown to himself, suffer more loss than if he had openly permitted him. Let this law, then, from this night forward, be binding upon the old men. *To the AUDIENCE.* Young men, kindly fare you well; and if this law, enacted for the sake of the old ones, pleases you, it is right that you should give us loud applause.

MILES GLORIOSUS

Translated by Henry Thomas Riley

Miles Gloriosus (The Swaggering Soldier) is based on a lost Greek play called *Alazon or The Braggart*. The action takes place in Ephesus, a Greek city on the coast of Asia Minor, famous for its Temple of Artemis. The play commences with the entrance of Pyrgopolynices (the 'Miles Gloriosus' of the play's title), posing in a heroic, but pompous manner. He is followed by his "parasite", Artotrogus, who earns his meals by flattering the soldier excessively, and several minions that carry his enormous shield. Pyrgopolynices constantly boasts about his accomplishments and portrays himself as a fantastic military hero. In reality, his accomplishments are far smaller — hence the play's title. After he leaves the stage we meet one of the main characters of the play, Palaestrio, who formerly served a young Athenian, Pleusicles. His former master had a lover named Philocomasium, who was kidnapped from Athens and taken by Pyrgopolynices. When Palaestrio tried to reach his master with this bad news, the slave was seized by pirates and given, by chance, to the same soldier. Both he and the girl have been living in the soldier's house in Ephesus, but Palaestrio has sent a letter secretly to his former master telling him where they are. Now Pleusicles has come to Ephesus and is staying with Periplectomenus, who lives next door to the soldier, and the wise Palaestrio has cut a hole in the wall so the two lovers can see one another.

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THE SUBJECT

PLIEUSICLES, a young Athenian, is in love with Philocomasium, a Courtesan of Athens, who returns his affection. Being sent on public business to Naupactus, a certain Captain of Ephesus, Pyrgopolinices by name, comes to Athens, and insinuates himself into the good graces of her mother, in order that he may get Philocomasium into his power. Having deceived the mother, he places the daughter on board ship and carries her off to Ephesus. On this, Palaestrio, a faithful servant of Pleusicles, hastens to embark for Naupactus, with the view of telling his master what has happened. The ship being taken by pirates, he is made captive, and by chance is presented as a gift to Pyrgopolinices. He recognises the mistress of Pleusicles in the Captain's house; but he carefully conceals from the Captain who he himself is. He then privately writes to Pleusicles, requesting him to come to Ephesus. On arriving, Pleusicles is hospitably entertained by Periplecomenus, a friend of his father, an old gentleman who lives next door to the Captain. As Philocomasium has a private room of her own in the Captain's house, a hole is made through the partition wall, and by this contrivance she meets Pleusicles in the house of his entertainer, who gives his sanction to the plan.

At this juncture, the play begins. A servant of the Captain, named Sceledrus, has been appointed to be the keeper of Philocomnasium. Pursuing a monkey along the roof of the house, he looks down the skylight of the house next door, and there sees Pleusicles and Philocomasium conversing and toying with each other. When this has been discovered to be the case, a plan is arranged, by which Sceledrus shall not only not divulge to the Captain what he has seen, but shall even be made to believe that he has not actually seen it himself. Palaestrio, therefore, persuades him that the twin-sister of Philocomasium has arrived at Ephesus, and with her lover is staying at their neighbour's house. To forward their designs, Palaestrio then invents another plan. He persuades the Captain to believe that the wife of his neighbour, Periplecomenus, is in love with him. Through his agency, a Courtesan, named Acroteleutium, pretends that she is

the wife so desperately in love with the Captain. he believes this story, and, that he may the more conveniently receive her in his house, by the advice of Palaestrio, he sends Philocomasium away, and gives her into the charge of Pleusicles, who is disguised in the dress of a master of a ship. They go to the harbour and set sail, accompanied by Palaestrio, whom the Captain has given to Philocomasium at her request. The Captain, then, at the invitation of the maid of Acroteleutium, goes to the house next door, to visit her mistress. On this, Periplecomenus, with his servants, sallies forth upon him, and, having first threatened to cut him in pieces, and then having beaten and stripped him, they let him go, after they have exacted from him a confession that he has been rightly served, and a promise that he will molest no one in return for the treatment he has received.

THE ACROSTIC ARGUMENT.

[Supposed to have been written by Priscian, the Grammarian.]

A Captain carries off to Ephesus a Courtesan (Meretricem) from Athens. While his servant is intending to tell this (Id) to his master, her lover, who is an Ambassador (Legato) abroad, he himself is captured at sea, and (Et) is given as a present to the same Captain. The servant sends for his (Suum) master from Athens, and cleverly makes a hole in the party wall, common to the two (Geminis) houses, that it may be possible (Liceret) for the two lovers secretly to meet. Wandering about (Oberrans), her keeper sees them from the tiles, but he is played a trick (Ridiculis) upon, as though it were another person. Palaestrio, too, as well (Item) persuades the Captain to have his mistress dismissed (Omissam), since the wife of the old man (Senis), his neighbour, wishes to marry him. He begs that she will go away of her own accord (Ultro), and gives her many things. He, himself, caught in the house of the old man (Senis), receives punishment as an adulterer.

ACT I.

Enter PYRGOPOLINICES , ARTOTROGUS, and Soldiers.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Take ye care that the lustre of my shield is more bright than the rays of the sun are wont to be at the time when the sky is clear; that when occasion comes, the battle being joined, ‘mid the fierce ranks right opposite it may dazzle the eyesight of the enemy. But, I wish to console this sabre of mine, that it may not lament nor be downcast in spirits, because I have thus long been wearing it keeping holiday, which so longs right dreadfully to make havoc of the enemy. But where is Artotrogus?

ARTOTROGUS
Here he is; he stands close by the hero, valiant and successful, and of princely form. Mars could not dare to style himself a warrior so great, nor compare his prowess with yours.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Him you mean whom I spared on the Gorgonidonian plains, where Bumbomachides Clytomestoridysarchides, the grandson of Neptune, was the chief commander?

ARTOTROGUS
I remember him; him, I suppose, you mean with the golden armour, whose legions you puffed away with your breath just as the wind blows away leaves or the reed-thatched roof.

PYRGOPOLINICES
That, on my troth, was really nothing at all.

ARTOTROGUS
Faith, that really was nothing at all in comparison with other things I could mention — *(aside)* which you never did. If any person ever beheld a more perjured fellow than this, or one more full of vain boasting, faith let him have me for himself, I’ll resign myself for his

slave; if 'tis not the fact that my one mess of olive pottage is eaten up by me right ravenously.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Where are you?

ARTOTROGUS
Lo! here am I. I' troth in what a fashion it was you broke the fore-leg of even an elephant, in India, with your fist.

PYRGOPOLINICES
How? — the fore-leg?

ARTOTROGUS
I meant to say this — the thigh.

PYRGOPOLINICES
I struck the blow without an effort.

ARTOTROGUS
Troth, if, indeed, you had put forth your strength, your arm would have passed right through the hide, the entrails, and the frontispiece of the elephant.

PYRGOPOLINICES
I don't care for these things just now.

ARTOTROGUS
I' faith, 'tis really not worth the while for you to tell me of it, who know right well your prowess. *(Aside)* 'Tis my appetite creates all these plagues. I must hear him right out with my ears, that my teeth mayn't have time to grow, and whatever lie he shall tell, to it I must agree.

PYRGOPOLINICES
What was it I was saying?

ARTOTROGUS

O, I know what you were going to say just now. I' faith 'twas bravely done; I remember its being done.

PYRGOPOLINICES
What was that?

ARTOTROGUS
Whatever it was you were going to say.

PYBG.
Have you got your tablets?

ARTOTROGUS
Are you intending to enlist? I have them, and a pen as well.

PYRGOPOLINICES
How cleverly you do suit your mind to my own mind.

ARTOTROGUS
'Tis fit that I should know your inclinations studiously, so that whatever you wish should first occur to me.

PYRGOPOLINICES
What do you remember?

ARTOTROGUS
I do remember this. In Cilicia there were a hundred and fifty men, a hundred in Cryphiolathronia, thirty at Sardis, sixty men of Macedon, whom you slaughtered altogether in one day.

PYRGOPOLINICES
What is the sum total of those men?

ARTOTROGUS
Seven thousand.

PYRGOPOLINICES
It must be as much: you keep the reckoning well.

ARTOTROGUS
Yet I have none of them written down; still, so I remember it was.

PYRGOPOLINICES
By my troth, you have a right good memory.

ARTOTROGUS
aside . 'Tis the flesh-pots give it a fillip.

PYRGOPOLINICES
So long as you shall do such as you have done hitherto, you shall always have something to eat: I will always make you a partaker at my table.

ARTOTROGUS
Besides, in Cappadocia, you would have killed five hundred men altogether at one blow, had not your sabre been blunt.

PYRGOPOLINICES
I let them live, because I was quite sick of fighting.

ARTOTROGUS
Why should I tell you what all mortals know, that you, Pyrgopolinices, live alone upon the earth, with valour, beauty, and achievements most unsurpassed? All the women are in love with you, and that not without reason, since you are so handsome. Witness those girls that pulled me by my mantle yesterday.

PYRGOPOLINICES
What was it they said to you?

ARTOTROGUS
They questioned me about you. "Is Achilles here?" says one to me. "No," says I, "his brother is." Then says the other to me: "By my troth, but he is a handsome and a noble man. See how his long hair becomes him Certainly the women are lucky who share his favours."

And pray, did they really say so?

ARTOTROGUS
They both entreated me to bring you past to-day by way of a sight to them.

PYRGOPOLINICES
’Tis really a very great plague to be too handsome a man.

ARTOTROGUS
They are quite a nuisance to me; they are praying, entreating, beseeching me, to let them see you; bidding me be fetched to them; so that I can’t give my attention to your business.

PYRGOPOLINICES
It seems that it is time for us to go to the Forum, that I may count out their pay to those soldiers whom I have enlisted of late. For King Seleucus entreated me with most earnest suit that I would raise and enlist recruits for him. To that business have I resolved to devote my attention this day.

ARTOTROGUS
Come, let’s be going then.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Guards, follow me. *(Exeunt.)*

ACT II.

The prologue. Enter PALAESTRIO.

PALAESTRIO
To tell the subject of this our play, I have all willingness, if you will but have the kindness to listen to it. But he who does not wish to listen, let him arise and go out, that there may be room where he may sit who does wish to listen. Now I will disclose to you both the subject and the name of the play which we are just now about to act, and for the sake of which you are now seated in this mirthful place, "Alazon" is the name, in Greek, of this Comedy; the same we call in Latin. "the Braggart" (Gloriosus). This city is Ephesus; then, the Captain, my master, who has gone off hence to the Forum, a bragging, impudent, stinking fellow, brimful of lying and lasciviousness, says that all the women are following him of their own accord. Wherever he goes, he is the laughing.stock of all; and so, the Courtesans here — since they make wry mouths at him, you may see the greater part of them with lips all awry. I wish you now to know this, how I came to be his slave, from him to whom I was servant before; for 'tis not long that I lave been in slavery to him. Give your attention, for now I will begin the argument. A very worthy young man at Athens was my master. He was in love with a Courtesan, brought up at Athens, in Attica, and she on the other hand loved him; such affection is most worthy to be cherished. In the public service, he was sent to Naupactus as Ambassador on behalf of that mighty republic. In the mean time, by chance, this Captain came to Athens. He introduced himself to this lady of my master, began to cajole her mother with presents of wine, trinkets, and costly treats; and so the Captain made himself on intimate terms with the procuress. As soon as ever an opportunity was presented for this Captain, he tricked this procuress, the mother of the damsel, whom my master loved. For, unknown to her mother, he put the daughter on board ship, and carried this woman, against her will, hither to Ephesus. Soon as I knew that the lady of my master was carried off from Athens, as quickly as ever I was able, I procured for myself a

ship: I embarked, that I might carry tidings of this matter to my master at Naupactum. When we had got out to sea, some pirates, as they had hoped to do, took that ship on board of which I was; thus I was undone before I reached my master, for whom I had commenced to proceed on my voyage. He that took me, gave me as a present to this same Captain. After he had taken me home to his own house, I saw there that favorite of my master who lived at Athens. When, on the other hand, she perceived me, she gave me a sign with her eyes not to address her by name. Afterwards, when there was an opportunity, the damsel complained to me of her hard fate. She said that she wished to escape to Athens from this house, that she was attached to him, that master of mine who lived at Athens, and that she had never hated any one more thoroughly than this same Captain. As I discovered the feelings of the damsel, I took tablets, sealed them in private, and gave them to a certain merchant to carry to him (my master, I mean, who was at Athens, and who had so loved her), in order that he might come hither. He did not slight the message, for he both is come, and is lodging here next door, with his host, a friend of his father's, a nice old man. He, too, gives every assistance to his guest in his amour, and encourages and seconds us with his help and his advice. Therefore, here *(pointing to the CAPTAIN'S house)* , in-doors, I have found a grand contrivance, by which to cause these lovers, each, to meet the other. For one room, which the Captain gave to his mistress for no one but herself to set foot in, in that same room I have dug a hole through the party-wall, in order that there may secretly be an ingress for the damsel from the one house to the other. And this I have done with the knowledge of the old gentleman; 'twas he that gave the advice. But my fellow-servant, whom the Captain has given as a keeper to his mistress, is a person of no great worth. By clever contrivances and ingenious devices, we will throw dust in his eyes, and we will make him so as not to see what he really does see. And that you may not hereafter make mistakes, this damsel to-day, in this house and in that, will perform in turn a double part, and will be the same, but will pretend to be another, person. Thus will the keeper of the damsel be gulled. But there is a noise at the door here of the old gentleman, our neighbour. 'Tis himself coming out 'tis he, the nice old man that I was speaking of. *(He retires to a*

distance.

Enter PERIPLECOMENUS from his house.

PERIPLECOMENUS
speaking to his servants within . Faith, if you don't in future smash his ankle-bones for any stranger that you see on my tiles, I will cut you so with lashes as to make thongs of your sides. My neighbours, i' faith, are overlookers of what is going on in my own house; so often are they peeping down through the skylight. And now, therefore, I give you all notice, whatever person of this Captain's household you shall see upon our tiles, except Palaestrio only, push him headlong here into the street. Suppose he says that he is following some hen, or pigeon, or monkey; woe be to you, if you don't badly maul the fellow even to death. And so, that they may commit no infringement against the laws of dice, do you take good care that they keep holiday at home without any ankle-bones at all.

PALAESTRIO
aside . Something amiss, — what, I know not, has been done him by our family so far as I can hear, inasmuch as the old man has ordered the ankles of my fellow-servants to be broken. But he has excepted me; nothing care I what he does to the rest of them. I'll accost the old man. *(Advances.)*

PERIPLECOMENUS
The person that is coming this way, is he coming towards me? He comes as if he was coming to me.

PALAESTRIO
How do you do, Periplecomenus?

PERIPLECOMENUS
There are not many men, if I were to wish, whom I would rather now see and meet with than yourself.

PALAESTRIO
What's the matter? What disturbance have you with our family?

PERIPLECOMENUS
We are done for.

PALAESTRIO
What's the matter?

PERIPLECOMENUS
The thing's discovered.

PALAESTRIO
What thing's discovered?

PERIPLECOMENUS
Some one just now of your household was looking in from the tiles through our skylight at Philocomasium and my guest as they were toying together.

PALAESTRIO
What person saw it?

PERIPLECOMENUS
Your fellow-servant.

PALAESTRIO
Which person was it?

PERIPLECOMENUS
I don't know; he took himself off so suddenly — in an instant.

PALAESTRIO
I suspect I'm ruined.

PERIPLECOMENUS
When he went away, I cried: "Hallo! you sir!" said I, "what are you doing upon the tiles?" As he went away he replied to me in these terms, that he was following a stray'd monkey.

PALAESTRIO

Woe to wretched me! that I must be ruined for a worthless beast. But is Philocomasium there with you even still?

PERIPLECOMENUS
When I came out, she was there.

PALAESTRIO
If she is, then bid her return to our house as soon as ever she can, that the servants may see that she is at home; unless, indeed, she wishes that we, who are slaves, her fellow- slaves, should all be given up together to tortures by the cross on account of her courting.

PERIPLECOMENUS
I bade her do so; unless you would aught else.

PALAESTRIO
I would. Tell her this: that, by my troth, she must not hesitate at all to bring in play her skill and cleverness.

PERIPLECOMENUS
In what way?

PALAESTRIO
That by her words she may persuade him who saw her here at your house, that he did not see her. Should he accuse her, on the other hand let her convince him with her oath. Even though she were seen a hundred times over, still let her deny it. *Aside.* For, if she is at all inclined to ill, a woman never goes begging to the gardener for material, she has a garden at home and a stock of her own for all mischievous contrivances; at home she has impudence, a lying tongue, perfidiousness, malice, and boldness, self-conceit, assurance, and deceitfulness, — at home she has wiles, — at home captivating contrivances, — stratagems at home.

PERIPLECOMENUS
I'll tell her this, if she shall be in-doors here *pointing to his house* . But what is it, Palaestrio, that you are considering with yourself in your mind?

PALAESTRIO
Be silent a moment, while I am calling a council in my mind, and while I am considering what I am to do, what plan I must contrive, on the other hand, as a match for my crafty fellow-servant, who has seen her billing here in your house; so that what was seen may not have been seen.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Do contrive one; in the meantime, I'll retire hence to a distance from you, to this spot. *He retires to a distance.* Look at him, please *to the AUDIENCE* , revolving his cares with brow severe, how he stands. He strikes his breast with his fingers I fancy he's about to call his heart outside. See, he shifts his posture; again he places his left hand upon his left thigh. His right hand is reckoning down his plans upon his fingers; in despair he strikes his thigh. His right hand is moving rapidly; with difficulty does it suggest what he is to do. He snapshis fingers now; he's striving hard; full oft he changes his position. But see how he shakes his head; it pleases him not what he has hit upon. Whatever it is, nothing crude will he bring forth, something well-digested will he produce. But see, he is building; he has placed his hand as a pillar beneath his chin. Have done with it in truth, this mode of building pleases me not; for I have heard say that the head of a foreign Poet is wont to be supported thus, over whom two guards are ever at all hours keeping watch. Bravo! how becomingly he stands, — i' faith, how like a very slave, and how faithful to his part. Never, this day,will he rest, before he has completed that which he is in search of. He has it, I suspect. Come — to the business you're about: keep wide awake, think not of sleep; unless, indeed, you wish to be keeping your watch here all checquered o'er with stripes. 'Tis T, that am talking to you; schemer, don't you know that I am speaking to you? Palaestrio! awake, say; arouse yourself, I say; 'tis daylight now, I say.

PALAESTRIO
I hear you.

PERIPLECOMENUS

Don’t you see that the enemy is upon you, and that siege is being laid to your back? Take counsel, then; obtain aid and assistance in this matter; the hastily, not the leisurely, is befitting here. Get the start of them in some way, and in some direction this moment lead around your troops. Close round the enemy in siege; prepare the convoy for our side. Cut off the enemy’s provision, secure yourself a passage, by which supplies and provision may be enabled in safety to reach yourself and your forces. Look to this business; the emergency is sudden. Invent — contrive — this instant give us some clever plan; so that that which has been seen here within, may not have been seen; that which has been done, may not have been done. There, my man, you undertake a great enterprise; lofty the defences which you erect. If you yourself alone but say you undertake this, I have a certainty that we are able to rout our foes.

PALAESTRIO
I do say so, and I do undertake it.

PERIPLECOMENUS
And I do pronounce that you shall obtain that which you desire.

PALAESTRIO
May Jupiter kindly bless you then!

PERIPLECOMENUS
But, friend, do you impart to me the plan which you have devised.

PALAESTRIO
Be silent, then, while I am inducting you in the direction of my devices; that you may know as well as my own self my plans.

PERIPLECOMENUS
The same you shall receive safe from the same spot where you have deposited them.

PALAESTRIO
My master is surrounded with the hide of an elephant, not his own, and has no more wisdom than a stone.

PERIPLECOMENUS
I myself know the same thing.

PALAESTRIO
Now, thus I would begin upon my plan; this contrivance I shall act upon. I shall say that her other own twin-sister has come here from Athens, with a certain person, her lover, to Philocomasium, as like to her as milk is to milk. I shall say that they are lodged and entertained here in your house.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Bravo! bravo! cleverly thought of. I approve or your device.

PALAESTRIO
So that, if my fellow-servant should accuse her before the Captain, and say that he has seen her here at your house, toying with another man, I shall assert, on the other hand, that my fellow-servant has seen the other one, the sister, at your house, fondling and toying with her own lover.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Aye, most excellent. I'll say the same, if the Captain shall inquire of me.

PALAESTRIO
But do you say that they are extremely alike; and this must be imparted in time to Philocomasium, in order that she may know; that she mayn't be tripping if the Captain should question her.

PERIPLECOMENUS
A very clever contrivance. But if the Captain should wish to see them both in company together, what shall we do then?

PALAESTRIO
That's easy enough. Three hundred excuses may be picked up — she is not at home; she has gone out walking; she is asleep; she is dressing; she is bathing; she is at breakfast; she is taking dessert; she is engaged; she is enjoying her rest; in fact, she can't come. There are

as many of these put-offs as you like, if I can only persuade him at the very outset to believe that to be true which shall be contrived.

PERIPLECOMENUS
I like what you say.

PALAESTRIO
Go in-doors then; and if the damsel's there, bid her return home directly, and instruct and tutor her thoroughly in this plan, that she may understand our scheme, as we have begun it, about the twin-sister.

PERIPLECOMENUS
I'll have her right cleverly tutor'd for you. Is there anything else?

PALAESTRIO
Only, be off in-doors.

PERIPLECOMENUS
I'm off. *(Exit.) PALAESTRIO alone.*

PALAESTRIO
And I'll go home, too; and I'll conceal the fact that I am giving her my aid in seeking out the man, which fellow-servant of mine it was, that to-day was following the monkey. For it cannot be but in his conversation he must have made some one of the household acquainted about the lady of his master, how that he himself has seen her next door here toying with some stranger spark. I know the habit myself; "I can't hold my tongue on that which I know alone." If I find out the person who saw it, I'll plant against him all> my mantelets and covered works. The material is prepared; 'tis a sure matter that I must take this person by force, and by thus besieging him. If so I don't find the man, just like a hound I'll go smelling about, even until I shall have traced out the fox by his track. But our door makes a noise: I'll lower my voice; for here is the keeper of Philocomasium, my fellow-servant, coming out of doors. *(Stands aside.)*

Enter SCLEDRUS from the CAPTAIN's house.

SCELEDRUS
Unless, in fact, I have been walking this day in my sleep upon the tiles, i' faith, I know for sure that I have seen here, at our neighbour's next door, Philocomasium, the lady of my master, on the high road to mischief to herself.

PALAESTRIO
aside . 'Twas he that saw her billing, so far as I have heard him say.

SCELEDRUS
Who's that?

PALAESTRIO
Your fellow-servant. How are you, Sceledrus?

SCELEDRUS
I am glad that I have met you, Palaestrio.

PAT.
What now? Or what's the matter? Let me know.

SCELEDRUS
I'm afraid.

PALAESTRIO
What are you afraid of?

SCELEDRUS
By my troth, lest, this day, as many domestics as there are of us here, we shall jump into a most woful punishmient by way of torture.

PALAESTRIO
Jump you alone, please; for I don't at all like this jumping in and jumping out.

SCELEDRUS

Perhaps you don't know what new mischance has happened at home?

PALAESTRIO
What mischance is this?

SCELEDRUS
A disgraceful one.

PALAESTRIO
Do you then keep it to yourself alone: don't tell it me; I don't want to know it.

SCELEDRUS
But I won't let you not know it. To-day I was following our monkey upon the tiles, next door there. *Points to the house.*

PALAESTRIO
By my troth, Sceledrus, a worthless fellow, you were following a worthless beast.

SCELEDRUS
The Gods confound you!

PALAESTRIO
That befits yourself, since you began the conversation.

SCELEDRUS
By chance, as it happened, I looked down there through the skylight, into the next house; and there I saw Philocomasium toying with some strange young man, I know not whom.

PALAESTRIO
What scandalous thing is this I hear of you, Sceledrus?

SCELEDRUS
I' faith, I did see her, beyond a doubt.

PALAESTRIO
What, yourself?

SCELEDRUS
Yes, I myself, with these eyes of mine.

PALAESTRIO
Get away, it isn't likely what you say, nor did you see her.

SCELEDRUS
Do I, then, appear to you as if I were purblind?

PALAESTRIO
'Twere better for you to ask the doctor about that. But, indeed, if the Gods only love you, don't you rashly father this idle story. Now are you breeding thence a fatal dilemma for your legs and head; for, in two ways, the cause is contrived for you to be ruined, unless you put a check upon your foolish chattering.

SCELEDRUS
But how, two ways?

PALAESTRIO
I'll tell you. First then, if you falsely accuse Philocomasium, by that you are undone; in the next place, if it is true, having been appointed her keeper, there you are undone.

SCELEDRUS
What may happen to me, I know not; I know for certain that I did see this.

PALAESTRIO
Do you persist in it, unfortunate wretch?

SCELEDRUS
What would you have me say to you, but that I did see her? Moreover, she is in there, next door, at this very moment.

PALAESTRIO
What! Isn't she at home?

SCELEDRUS
Go and see. Go in-doors yourself; for I don't ask now for any confidence to be put in me.

PALAESTRIO
I'm determined to do so.

SCELEDRUS
I'll wait here for you. *PALAESTRIO goes into the CAPTAIN'S house. SCLEDRUS, alone.*

SCELEDRUS
In this direction will I be on the watch for her, how soon the heifer may betake herself from the pasture this way towards her stall. What now shall I do? The Captain gave me to her as her keeper. Now, if I make a discovery, I'm undone; if I am silent, still I am undone, if this should be discovered. What is there more abandoned or more daring than a woman? While I was upon the tiles, this woman betook herself out of doors from her dwelling. By my troth, 'twas a brazen act she did. If, now, the Captain were to know of this, i' faith, I believe he would pull down the whole entire house next door, and me he would send to the gibbet.. Whatever comes of it, i' faith, I'll hold my tongue rather than come to a bad end. I cannot keep effectual guard on a woman that puts herself up for sale. *Enter PALAESTRIO from the CAPTAIN's house.*

PALAESTRIO
Sceledrus, Sceledrus, what one man is there on earth more impudent than yourself? Who more than yourself has been born with the Deities hostile and enraged?

SCELEDRUS
What's the matter?

PALAESTRIO

Do you want those eyes of yours gouged out, with which you see what never existed?

SCELEDRUS
How, what never existed?

PALAESTRIO
I would not buy your life at the price of a rotten nut.

SCELEDRUS
Why, what's the matter?

PALAESTRIO
What's the matter, do you ask?

SCELEDRUS
And why shouldn't I ask?

PALAESTRIO
Why don't you beg for that tongue of yours to be cut out, that prates so at random?

SCELEDRUS
Why should I beg for that?

PALAESTRIO
Why, Philocomasium is there at home, she whom you were saying that you had seen next door kissing and toying with another man.

SCELEDRUS
'Tis a wonder that you are in the habit of feeding on darnel, with wheat at so low a price.

PALAESTRIO
Why so?

SCELEDRUS
Because you are so dim of sight.

PALAESTRIO
You gallows-bird, ’tis you, indeed, that are blind, with a vengeance, and not dim of sight; for, sure enough, there she is at home.

SCELEDRUS
How? At home?

PALAESTRIO
At home, i’ faith, undoubtedly.

SCELEDRUS
Be off with you; you are playing with me, Palaestrio

PALAESTRIO
My hands are dirty, then.

SCELEDRUS
How so?

PALAESTRIO
Because I am playing with dirt.

SCELEDRUS
A mischief on your head.

PALAESTRIO
Nay rather, Sceledrus, it shall be on yours, I promise you, unless you change for fresh your eyes and your talk. But our door made a noise.

SCELEDRUS
Well, I shall watch here out of doors, for there is no way by which she can pass hence in-doors, except through the front door.

PALAESTRIO
But there she is, at home. I don’t know, Scledrus, what mischief is possessing you.

SCELEDRUS

I see for my own self, I judge for my own self, I have especial faith in my own self: no man shall frighten me out of it, but that she is in that house. *Points to the house of PERIPLECOMENUS.* Here I'll take my stand, that she may not steal out home without my knowledge.

PALAESTRIO
(aside) This fellow is in my hands; now will I drive him from his strong hold. *(To SCLEDRUS)* Do you wish me now to make you own that you don't see correctly?

SCELEDRUS
Come, do it then.

PALAESTRIO
And that you neither think aright in your mind, nor yet make use of your eyes?

SCELEDRUS
I'd have you do it.

PALAESTRIO
Do you say, then that the lady of your master is there in that house?

SCELEDRUS
I assert, as well, that I saw here here in this house *(points to the house of PERIPLECOMENUS)* , toying with a strange man.

PALAESTRIO
Don't you know that there is no communication between our house here and that one?

SCELEDRUS
I know it.

PALAESTRIO
Neither by the terrace, nor by the garden, only through the skylight?

SCELEDRUS
I know it.

PALAESTRIO
What then, if she is now at home? If I shall make her, so as you may see her,come out hence from our house, are you not deserving of many a lashing?

SCELEDRUS
I am so deserving.

PALAESTRIO
Watch that door, then, that she may not privily betake herself out thence without your knowledge and pass here into our house.

SCELEDRUS
'Tis my intention to do so.

PALAESTRIO
Upon her feet will I place her this moment here before you in the street.

SCELEDRUS
Come, then, and do so. *PALAESTRIO goes into the CAPTAIN's house. SCLEDRUS, alone.*

SCELEDRUS
I wish to know whether I did see that which I did see, or whether he can do that which he says he can do — make her to be at home. For, really, I have eyes of my own, and I don't ever ask to borrow them out of doors. But this fellow is forever fawning about her; he is always near her; he is called first to meat; his mess is given to him first. For this fellow has been, perhaps, about three years with us; nor fares it better with any other servant in our family than with him. But it is necessary for me to mind what I am about; to keep my eye upon this door. If I take my station here, this way, in faith, I warrant they will never impose on me.

Enter PALAESTRIO and PHILOCOMASIUM from the CAPTAIN's house.

PALAESTRIO
(speaking to her in a low voice as he enters) Be sure to remember my instructions.

PHILOCOMASIUM
(aside) It's strange you should so often remind me.

PALAESTRIO
(aside) But I fear you may not prove cunning enough.

PHILOCOMASIUM
(aside) Give me even ten scholars, though far from artful, I could instruct them so as to prove artful; in me alone is there a superabundance of artfulness; come, then, now put your plans in force; I'll step aside here. *(Steps aside.)*

PALAESTRIO
What have you to say, Scledrus?

SCELEDRUS
(not lifting up his eyes) I'm about this business of mine; I have got ears, say what you please.

PALAESTRIO
I think that in that self-same position you will have to die outside the gates, when, with hands outstretched, you will be carrying your cross.

SCELEDRUS
For what reason so?

PALAESTRIO
Just look on your left hand; who is that lady?

SCELEDRUS

looking . O ye immortal Gods, it really is the lady of my master!

PALAESTRIO
I' faith, so she seems to me as well. Do then, now, since so you would have it ——

SCELEDRUS
Do what?

PALAESTRIO
Die this very instant.

PHILOCOMASIUM
advancing . Where is this faithful servant, who has falsely accused me in my innocence of this most heinous crime?

PALAESTRIO
See, here he is; 'tis he that told it me, — assuredly 'twas he.

PHILOCOMASIUM
Villain, did you say that you had seen me next door here kissing?

PALAESTRIO
Besides, he said it was with some strange young man.

SCELEDRUS
I' faith, I did. say so, undoubtedly.

PHILOCOMASIUM
You, saw me?

SCELEDRUS
Yes, with these self-same eyes.

PHILOCOMASIUM
I fancy you will lose those eyes, which see more than what they really do see.

SCELEDRUS

By my faith, I shall never be intimidated from having seen what I really did see.

PHILOCOMASIUM
In my foolishness I am delaying too long in parleying with this madman, whom, by the powers, I'll punish with death.

SCELEDRUS
Forbear to threaten me: I know that the cross will prove my tomb; there are laid my forefathers, my father, grandfather, great-grandfather, great-great-grandfather. 'Tis not in possibility, however, for these eyes of mine to be dug out by your threats. But I want a few words with you; prithee, Palaestrio, whence came she hither?

PALAESTRIO
Whence but from our house?

SCELEDRUS
From our house?

PALAESTRIO
Do you credit me?

SCELEDRUS
I do credit you: but 'tis a thing to be wondered at, how she has been able to return from that house to ours. For, beyond a doubt, we have neither a terrace to our house, nor any garden, nor any window but what is latticed. *To PHILOCOMASIUM.* But, undoubtedly, I did see you in the house next door.

PALAESTRIO
Do you persist, you rascal, in pretending to accuse her?

PHILOCOMASIUM
In good sooth, then, the dream has not turned out untrue, that I dreamed last night.

PALAESTRIO

What did you dream?

PHILOCOMASIUM
I'll tell you; but, I pray you, give attention. Last night, in my sleep, my twin-sister seemed to have come from Athens to Ephesus with a certain person, her lover. Both of them seemed to me to be having their lodgings here next door.

PALAESTRIO
to the AUDIENCE . The dream that's being related is Palaestrio's — pray, go on.

PHILOCOMASIUM
I seemed to be delighted because my sister had come, and on her account I seemed to be incurring a most grievous suspicion. For, in my sleep, my own servant seemed to accuse me, as you are now doing, of being caressed by a strange young man, whereas it was that own twin-sister of mine, who had been toying with her own friend. Thus did I dream that I was wrongfully accused of a crime.

PALAESTRIO
And isn't just the same thing befalling you when awake, that you speak of as seen in your sleep? Capital; i' faith, the dream is verified: go in-doors, and pray. I should recommend that this be told to the Captain.

PHILOCOMASIUM
I am resolved to do so; nor, in fact, will I allow myself, with impunity, to be accused of disgraceful conduct. *Goes into the CAPTAIN'S house.*

SCELEDRUS
I fear for the thing I have done; my back does so tingle all over.

PALAESTRIO
Are you not aware that you are done for?

SCELEDRUS

Now, indeed, I'm sure she is at home; I am now resolved to watch our door, wheresoever she may be. *Places himself at the door.*

PALAESTRIO
But, prithee, Sceledrus, how very like the dream she dreamt to what has happened; and how you really did believe that you had seen her kissing. * * * * *

SCELEDRUS
And do you suppose that I didn't see her?

PALAESTRIO
I' faith, I verily believe you'll come to your senses when 'tis too late. If this matter should only reach our master, you certainly are undone.

SCELEDRUS
Now, at length, I find out that there was a mist placed before my eyes.

PALAESTRIO
I' faith, that really has been plain for some time now; as she was here in-doors all the while.

SCELEDRUS
Not a word of certainty have I to utter; I did not see her, although I did see her.

PALAESTRIO
By my troth, through this folly of yours you certainly have nearly ruined us; while you have wished to prove yourself faithful to your master, you have been almost undone. But the door of our next neighbour makes a noise; I'll be silent.

Enter PHILOCOMASIUM, dressed in another habit, from the house of PERIPLECOMENUS.

PHILOCOMASIUM
to a servant SERVANT . Put fire on the altar, that in my joy I may

return praises and thanks to Diana of Ephesus, and that I may send up for her a grateful smoke with odours of Arabia: she who has preserved me in the realms of Neptune and amid the boisterous temples, where with raging billows I have been so recently dismayed.

SCELEDRUS
discovering her . Palaestrio! O Palaestrio!

PALAESTRIO
Sceledrus! O Sceledrus! What is it you want?

SCELEDRUS
This lady that has come out of that house just now — is she Philocomasium, our master's lady, or is she not?

PALAESTRIO
I' faith, I think, it seems to be she. But 'tis a wondrous thing how she could pass from our house to next door; if, indeed, it is she.

SCELEDRUS
And have you any doubt that this is she?

PALAESTRIO
It seems to be she.

SCELEDRUS
Let us approach her, and accost her. Hallo! how's this, Philocomasium? What is there owing to you in that house? What is your business there? Why are you silent now? I am speaking to you.

PALAESTRIO
No, faith, you are talking to yourself; for nothing at all does she answer.

SCELEDRUS
I am addressing you, woman, brimful of viciousness and disgrace, who are roaming about among your neighbours.

PHILOCOMASIUM
To whom are you talking?

SCELEDRUS
To whom but to yourself?

PHILOCOMASIUM
What person are you? Or what business have you with me?

SCELEDRUS
O, you ask me who I am, do you?

PHILOCOMASIUM
Why shouldn't I ask that which I don't know?

PALAESTRIO
Who am I, then, if you don't know him?

PHILOCOMASIUM
You are an annoyance to me, whoever you are, both you and he.

SCELEDRUS
What? don't you know us?

PHILOCOMASIUM
No, neither of you.

SCELEDRUS
I very much fear ——

PALAESTRIO
What do you fear?

SCELEDRUS
Why, that we have lost ourselves somewhere or other; for she says that she knows neither you nor me.

PALAESTRIO
I wish, Sceledrus, to examine into this, whether we are ourselves, or

else some other persons; lest secretly somehow some one of our neighbours may have transformed us without our knowing it.

SCELEDRUS
For my part, beyond a doubt, I am my own self.

PALAESTRIO
I' faith, and so am I.

SCELEDRUS
My lady, you are seeking your destruction. To you I am speaking; hark you, Philocomasium!

PHILOCOMASIUM
What craziness possesses you, to be calling me wrongly by a crackjaw name?

SCELEDRUS
How now! What are you called, then?

PHILOCOMASIUM
My name is Glycera.

SCELEDRUS
For a bad purpose, Philocomasium, you wish to have a wrong name. Away with you, shocking woman; for most notably are you doing a wrong to my master.

PHILOCOMASIUM
I?

SCELEDRUS
Yes, you.

PHILOCOMASIUM
I, who arrived from Athens yesterday evening at Ephesus, with my lover, a young man of Athens?

SCELEDRUS
Tell me, what business have you here in Ephesus?

PHILOCOMASIUM
I had heard that my own twin-sister is here in Ephesus; I came here to look for her.

SCELEDRUS
You're a good-for-nothing woman.

PHILOCOMASIUM
Yes, i' faith, I am a very foolish one to be parleying with you fellows. I am going.

SCELEDRUS
I won't let you go. *Catches hold of her.*

PHILOCOMASIUM
Let me go.

SCELEDRUS
You are discovered in the fact. I won't let you go.

PHILOCOMASIUM
But my hands shall just now sound again against your cheek, if you don't let me go.

SCELEDRUS
to PALAESTRIO . Why the plague are you standing idle? Why don't you hold her on the other side?

PALAESTRIO
I don't choose to bring the business down upon my back. How do I know but that this is not Philocomasium, but is some other female that resembles her?

PHILOCOMASIUM
Will you let me go, or will you not let me go?

SCELEDRUS
No; by force and against your will, in spite of you, I'll drag you home, unless you'll go of your own accord.

PHILOCOMASIUM
pointing to the house of PERIPLECOMENUS . This is my lodging here abroad, at Athens is my home.

SCELEDRUS
But your master lives here *pointing to the CAPTAIN'S house* .

PHILOCOMASIUM
I have nothing to do with that house, nor do I know or understand yourselves what persons you are.

SCELEDRUS
Proceed against me at law. I'll never let you go, until you give me your solemn word that you will go indoors here *pointing to the CAPTAIN'S house* if I let go of you.

PHILOCOMASIUM
You are compelling me by force, whoever you are. I give you my word, that if you let go of me, I will go into that house where you bid me.

SCELEDRUS
Then, now I let go of you.

PHILOCOMASIUM
And, as I'm let go, I'll go in here. *Runs into the house of PERIPLECOMENUS.*

SCELEDRUS
She has acted with a woman's honour.

PALAESTRIO
Sceledrus, you've lost the prey through your hands; as sure as possible she is the lady of our master. Do you intend to act in this

matter with spirit?

SCELEDRUS
How am I to act?

PALAESTRIO
Bring me a sword out here from in-doors.

SCELEDRUS
What will you do with it?

PALAESTRIO
I'll break right into the house; and whatever man I see in-doors there caressing Philocomasium, I'll behead him on the spot.

SCELEDRUS
And do you think that it was she?

PALAESTRIO
I' faith, it was she, sure enough.

SCELEDRUS
But how she did dissemble.

PALAESTRIO
Go, bring me a sword out here.

SCELEDRUS
I'll have it here this moment. *Goes into the CAPTAIN'S house. PALAESTRIO alone.*

PALAESTRIO
Beyond a doubt, neither any horse nor foot has so great a degree of boldness in carrying out anything with as much confidence as some women. How cleverly and how skilfully she performed her part in both her characters! — how her wary keeper, my fellow-servant, is being gulled! 'Tis most fortunate that the passage communicates through the party-wall. *Enter SCLEDRUS from the CAPTAIN's*

house.

SCELEDRUS
Hallo! Palaestrio, there's no occasion for the sword.

PALAESTRIO
How so? — or what's the matter now?

SCELEDRUS
Our master's lady is there, at home.

PALAESTRIO
What? At home?

SCELEDRUS
She's lying on the sofa.

PALAESTRIO
Faith, but you've certainly brought on yourself a disagreable affair, according to what you report.

SCELEDRUS
How so?

PALAESTRIO
Inasmuch as you have dared to touch that lady next door here.

SCELEDRUS
I' faith, I fear it much. But no one shall ever make her to be any other than her own twin-sister.

PALAESTRIO
'Twas she, in troth, that you saw toying: and, in fact, 'tis plain that it is she, as you remark.

SCELEDRUS
What was there more likely than that I should have been undone, if I had spoken of it to my master.

PALAESTRIO
Then, if you're wise, you'll hold your tongue. It befits a servant to know of more than he speaks. I'm going to leave you, that I may not at all participate in your designs. And I shall go to our neighbour here; these turmoils of yours don't please me. My master, if he comes, should he inquire for me, I shall be there; send for me next door. *Goes into the house of PERIPLECOMENUS.*

SCLEDRUS, alone.

SCELEDRUS
Well, he's off; nor cares he any more for his master's business than if he were not in his service. For sure she really is now here in-doors in the house, for I myself found her just now lying down in our house. I am resolved now to employ myself in watching. *Places himself against the CAPTAIN'S door. Enter PERIPLECOMENUS from his house.*

PERIPLECOMENUS
Faith, but these men here, these servants of my neighbour the Captain, take me not to be a man, but a woman, so much do they trifle with me. My lady guest, who came here yesterday from Athens with the gentleman, my guest, is she to be mauled about and made fun of here in the street — a lady, free-born and free?

SCELEDRUS
aside . By my troth, I'm undone. He's coming in a straight line up towards me. I fear that this matter may cause me great trouble, so far as I have heard this old gentleman speak.

PERIPLECOMENUS
I'll up to this fellow. Was it you, Sceledrus, source of mischief, that were just now making fun of my lady guest before the house?

SCELEDRUS
Good neighbour, listen, I beg.

PERIPLECOMENUS

I, listen to you?

SCELEDRUS
I wish to clear myself.

PERIPLECOMENUS
You, clear yourself to me, who have done an action so gross and so unbecoming? And because you are soldiers, do you suppose, you gallows-bird, that you may do what you like with us?

SCELEDRUS
May I —— ?

PERIPLECOMENUS
But so may all the Gods and Goddesses prosper me, if a punishment with the rod is not given to you at my request, a long and lasting one, from morning to evening; because you have been breaking my gutters and my tiles, while you were following there a monkey like your own self; because, too, you have been peeping down from there at my guest in my house, when he was caressing and fondling his mistress; besides, you have dared to accuse the chaste lady of your master of criminality, and myself of a heinous offence; and further, because you have dared to maul about my lady guest before my house. If the punishment of the whip is not given to you, I will cause your master to be more laden with disgrace than the sea is full of waves in a heavy storm.

SCELEDRUS
I am driven to such straits, Periplecomenus, that I don't know whether it is fitter for me rather to dispute this matter with you, or whether, if she is not our lady, and if our lady was not seen by me, it seems more proper for me to excuse myself to you; as even now I don't know which I saw, so like is that guest of yours to our lady — if, indeed, she is not the same person.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Go into my house and look: you'll soon see.

SCELEDRUS
May I go?

PERIPLECOMENUS
Why, I command you; go and examine at your leisure.

SCELEDRUS
I am determined to do so. *Goes into the house of PERIPLECOMENUS.*

PERIPLECOMENUS
probably looking up to a window in the CAPTAIN'S house . Ho! Philocomasium! pass instantly, with all speed, into my house; 'tis absolutely necessary. Afterwards, when Sceledrus shall have come out from my house, pass quickly, with all haste, back again to your own house. By my troth, now, I'm afraid she'll be making some blunder. Should he not see the woman * * * * My door opens. *Enter SCLEDRUS from the house of PERIPLECOMENUS.*

SCELEDRUS
O ye immortal Gods! A woman more like, and more the same, who is not the same, I do not think the Gods could make.

PERIPLECOMENUS
What now?

SCELEDRUS
I certainly merit chastisement.

PERIPLECOMENUS
What then? Is it she?

SCELEDRUS
Although 'tis she, 'tis not she.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Have you seen this lady?

SCELEDRUS
I have seen both her and the gentleman, your guest, caressing and kissing.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Is it she?

SCELEDRUS
I know not.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Would you know for certain?

SCELEDRUS
I should like to.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Go you this instant into your own house: see whether your lady is within.

SCELEDRUS
Very well: you've advised me rightly. I'll be out again to you this instant. *Goes into the CAPTAIN'S house.*

PERIPLECOMENUS
I' faith, I never saw any man more cleverly fooled, and by more singular devices. But here he is coming. *Enter SCLEDRUS from the CAPTAIN's house.*

SCELEDRUS
Periplecomenus, by Gods and men, and by my own folly, and by your knees! I do beseech you ——

PERIPLECOMENUS
What now?

SCELEDRUS
Pardon my ignorance and my folly; now, at length, I know that I am

half-witted, blind, and thoughtless; for, behold! Philocomasium is at home.

PERIPLECOMENUS
How, then, hang-dog. Have you seen them both?

SCELEDRUS
I have seen them.

PERIPLECOMENUS
I wish you to bring your master to me.

SCELEDRUS
Indeed, I confess that I deserve a very great punishment; and I own that I have done a wrong to your lady guest. But I thought that she was the lady of my master, to whom the Captain, my master, gave me as a keeper; for it is not possible for water ever to be drawn more like to water from the same well, than is she to this lady guest of yours. And I will confess, as well, that I did look through the skylight into your house.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Why shouldn't you confess what I saw myself?

SCELEDRUS
And there saw in your house this lady guest of yours, kissing.

PERIPLECOMENUS
You saw her?

SCELEDRUS
I saw her. Why should I deny what I did see? But I fancied that I had seen Philocomasium.

PERIPLECOMENUS
And did you suppose me to be the very vilest of all men, in allowing, with my own knowledge, such an injury so glaringly to be done to my neighbour?

SCELEDRUS
Now, at length, I am of opinion that it was done foolishly by me, when I come to understand the matter; but still I did not do it with any ill intent.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Yes, but 'twas improperly done; for it befits a person that is a servant to keep his eyes, and hands, and talk, asleep.

SCELEDRUS
Now, if after this day I mutter anything, even what I know for certain, give me over to torture; I'll give myself up to you. This time, prithee, do pardon me for this.

PERIPLECOMENUS
I shall subdue my feelings, so as to think that it was not done by you with malicious intent. I will pardon you in this matter.

SCELEDRUS
May the Gods bless you, then!

PERIPLECOMENUS
Troth now, as the Gods may prosper you, really do restrain your tongue henceforth; even that which you do know, don't know, and don't you see what you do see.

SCELEDRUS
You counsel me aright; so I'm resolved to do. Are you quite appeased?

PERIPLECOMENUS
Away with you.

SCELEDRUS
Is there aught else you now require of me?

PERIPLECOMENUS
That you would know me not. *Makes as if he is departing.*

SCELEDRUS
aside . He has been cajoling me. How kindly he vouchsafed his favour not to be angry. I know what plan he is upon: that directly the Captain returns home from the Forum, I may be caught at home. He and Palaestrio together have me in their power: I have perceived that, and for some time I've known it. I' faith, never will I be seeking a bait this day from out of that wicker-net. For now somewhither will I betake myself, and for some days will I lie concealed until this turmoil is hushed and their resentment is softened. Enough punishment for my unlucky prating have I already merited. But still, whatever befals me I'll be off hence home. *Goes into the CAPTAIN'S house. PERIPLECOMENUS, alone.*

PERIPLECOMENUS
So he has departed hence. I' faith, I know right well, that a dead pig full oft has more relish by far than a living one: so bamboozled has he been, that he did not see what he really did see. For his eyes, and ears, and thoughts have come over to us. So far, 'tis right cleverly managed; the lady has played her part most excellently. I'll go back again to my Senate; for Palaestrio is now at home in my house, and now Sceledrus is gone from the door. A full Senate can now be held. I'll go in; lest while I am absent, there should be a distribution of their parts among them. *Goes into his house.*

ACT III.

Enter PALAESTRIO from the house of PERIPLECOMENUS.

PALAESTRIO
on entering he calls to PLEUSICLES and PERIPLECOMENUS, who are in the house of the latter . Keep yourselves within doors, yet a moment, Pleusicles. Let me first look out, that there may be no ambush anywhere, against that council which we intend to hold. For now we have need of a safe place from which no enemy can win the spoils of our counsels. For a well-devised plan is very often filched away, if the place for deliberating has not been chosen with care or with caution; and what is well-advised is ill-advised if it proves of use to the enemy; and if it proves of use to the enemy, it cannot otherwise than prove a detriment to yourself. For if the enemy learn your plans, by your own self-same plans they tie your tongue and bind your hands; and they do the very same to you that you intended to do to them. But I'll spy about, lest any one, either in this direction on the left or on the right, should come like a huntsman on our counsels with his ears like toils. *Looks about.* Quite vacant is the prospect hence right to the bottom of the street. I'll call them out. Hallo! Periplecomenus and Pleusicles, come out! *Enter PERIPLECOMENUS and PLEUSICLES from the house of the former.*

PERIPLECOMENUS
Behold us here obedient to your call.

PALAESTRIO
The sway is easy over the good. But I wish to know, if we are to carry out the matter on the same plan that we formed within?

PERIPLECOMENUS
Why, in fact there's nothing can be more conducive to our purpose. Well, what say you, Pleusicles?

PLEUSICLES

Can that displease me which pleases yourselves? What person is there more my friend than your own self?

PERIPLECOMENUS
You speak kindly and obligingly.

PALAESTRIO
Faith, and so he ought to do.

PLEUSICLES
But this affair shockingly distresses me, and torments my very heart and body.

PERIPLECOMENUS
What is it that torments you? Tell me.

PLEUSICLES
That I should cause childish actions in a person of your years, and that I should require of you deeds that neither become yourself nor your virtues; and that, with all your might, for my sake you are striving to aid me in my passion, and are doing actions of such a kind, as, when done, these years of yours are wont rather to avoid than follow. I am ashamed that I cause you this trouble in your old age.

PERIPLECOMENUS
You are a person in love after a new fashion. If, in fact, you are ashamed of anything you do, you are nothing of a lover. You are rather the shadow of those who are in love, than a true lover, Pleusicles.

PLEUSICLES
Ought I to employ these years of yours in seconding my love?

PERIPLECOMENUS
How say you? Do I seem to you so very much a subject for Acheron? So much a bier's-man? Do I seem to you to have had so very long a life? Why, really, I am not more than four-and-fifty years old; I see

clearly with my eyes, I'm ready with my hands, I'm active with my feet.

PALAESTRIO
If he is seen by you to have white hair, he is by no means an old man in mind; in him the natural strength of his mind is unimpaired.

PLEUSICLES
By my troth, for my part, I have found it to be so as you say, Palaestrio; for, in fact, his kindness is quite that of a young man.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Yes, my guest, the more you make trial of it, the more you will know my courtesy towards you in your love.

PLEUSICLES
What need to know what's known already?

PERIPLECOMENUS
I'll show you more amiability on my part than I'll make mention of * * * * * * * that you may have instances for proving it at home, and not have to seek it out of doors. For unless one has loved himself, with difficulty he sees into the feelings of one in love. But I have some little love and moisture in my body still, and not yet am I dried up for the pursuits of merriment and pleasure. Either the merry banterer likewise, or the agreable boon-companion will I be; no interrupter of another am I at a feast. I bear in mind how properly to keep myself from proving disagreable to my fellow-guests; and how to take a due share with my conversation, and to be silent as well in my turn, when the discourse belongs to another. Far from being a spitter or hawker am I, far from being a dirty-nosed old fellow, too. And never do I take liberties with any person's mistress when out in company; I don't snatch up the dainty bits before another, nor take the cup before my turn; nor, through wine, do dissensions ever arise on my account at the convivial board. If there is any one there that is disagreable, I go off home; I cut the parley short. Stretched at my ease, I devote myself to pleasure, love, and mirth. In fine, at Ephesus

was I born, not among the Apulians, not at Animula.

PLEUSICLES
O what a most delightful old man, if he possesses the qualities he mentions! Why, troth, surely now, he was brought up in the very rearing of Venus.

PALAESTRIO
Why, in fact, you will not find another person who is of his years, more accomplished in every respect, or who is more a friend to his friend.

PLEUSICLES
By my troth, your whole manners really do show marks of first-rate breeding. Find me three men of such manners against a like weight in double-distilled gold.

PERIPLECOMENUS
I'll make you confess that I really am a youngster in my manners; so abounding in kindnesses will I prove myself to you in every respect. Should you have need of an advocate, severe or fierce? I am he. Have you need of one that is gentle? You shall say that I am more gentle than the sea is when hush'd, and something more balmy will I prove than is the Zephyr breeze. In this same person will I display to you either the most jovial boon-companion, or the first-rate trencher-man, and the best of caterers. Then, as for dancing, there is no ballet-master that is so supple as I.

PALAESTRIO
to PLEUSICLES . What could you wish added to these accomplishments, if the option were given you?

PLEUSICLES
That thanks could be returned by me to him in degree equal to his deserts, and to yourself, to both of whom I feel that I am now the cause of extreme anxiety. But it is grievous to me to be the cause of so great expense to you.

PERIPLECOMENUS
You are a simpleton. For, if you lay anything out on a bad wife and upon an enemy, that is an expense; that which is laid out on a deserving guest and a friend is gain; as that, which is expended upon sacred rites, is a profit to the wise man. By the blessing of the Gods, I have enough, with which to receive you with hospitality in my house. Eat, drink, indulge your tastes with me, and surfeit yourself with enjoyments; my house is at your service, myself likewise do I wish to be at your service. For, through the blessing of the Gods, I may say that, by reason of my wealth, I could have married a dowered wife of the best family; but I don't choose to introduce an everlasting female barker at me into my house.

PLEUSICLES
Why don't you choose? For 'tis a delightful thing to be the father of children [liberos].

PERIPLECOMENUS
Troth, 'tis very much sweeter by far to be free [liberum] yourself. For a good wife, if it is possible for her to be married anywhere on earth, where can I find her? But am I to take one home who is never to say this to me, "Buy me some wool, my dear, with which a soft and warm cloak may be made, and good winter under-clothes, that you mayn't catch cold this winter-weather;" such an expression as this you can never hear from a wife, but, before the cocks crow, she awakes me from my sleep, and says, "Give me some money, my dear, with which to make my mother a present on the Calends, give me some money to make preserves; give me something to give on the Quinquatrus to the sorceress, to the woman who interprets the dreams, to the prophetess, and to the female diviner; besides, 'tis impossible for me, in civility, not to fee the expiating woman; for long has the mattress-maker been grumbling, because she has received nothing; besides, the midwife found fault with me, that too little had been sent for her. What! arn't you going to send something to the nurse that brings up the young slaves? It's a shame if nothing's sent her; with what a brow she does look at me." These and many other expenses of the women like to these frighten me from a wife, to

be uttering speeches to me like to this.

PALAESTRIO
In good sooth, the Gods are propitious to you; for so soon as you lose this liberty, you will not easily reinstate yourself in the same condition.

PLEUSICLES
You are a person who are able to counsel wisely both for another and for yourself. But 'tis some merit for a man of noble family and of ample wealth to rear children — a memorial of his race and of himself.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Since I have many relations, what need have I of children? Now I live well and happily, and as I like, and as contents my feelings. For I shall bequeath my property to my relations, and divide it among them. These, like children, pay attentions to me; they come to see how I do, or what I want; before it is daybreak they are with me; they make inquiry how I have enjoyed my sleep in the night. Them will I have for children who are ever sending presents to me. Are they sacrificing — they give a greater part of it to me than to themselves; they take me home with them to share the entrails; they invite me to their houses to breakfast and to dinner. He thinks himself most unfortunate, who has sent but very little to me. They vie with one another with their presents; I say in a low voice to myself: "They are gaping after my property; while, in their emulation, they are nourishing me and loading me with presents."

PALAESTRIO
Upon right good grounds and right well do you fully understand yourself and your own interests, and if you are happy, sons twofold and threefold have you.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Troth, if I had had them, enough anxiety should I have had from my children. * * * * * * I should have been everlastingly tormented in

mind; but if perchance one had had a fever, I think I should have died. Or if one, in liquor, had tumbled anywhere from his horse, I should have been afraid that he had broken his legs or neck on that occasion.

PALAESTRIO
'Tis right that riches should come, and that long life should be granted to this man, who both husbands his property and yet enjoys himself and has kind wishes for his friends.

PLEUSICLES
O what a delightful person! So may the Gods and Goddesses prosper me, 'twere right the Deities should so ordain that all should not live after one rule as to the duration of life. Just as he who is a trusty market-officer sets their prices on the wares; as that which is good or valuable is sold according to its excellence, and that which is worthless, according to the faultiness of the commodity, deprives its owner of its price; so were it right that the Gods should. portion out the life of man, so as to give to him who is kindly disposed a long life, and speedily to deprive of existence those who are reprobate and wicked. If they had provided this, bad men would both have been fewer, and with less hardihood would they do their wicked deeds; and then, those who were good men, of them there would have been a more plenteous harvest.

PERIPLECOMENUS
He who would blame the ordinances of the Gods must be foolish and ignorant. * * * At present we must at once have an end of these matters; for new I want to go to market, that, my guest, according to your own deserts and mine, I may entertain you hospitably at my house, heartily and with right hearty cheer.

PLEUSICLES
I am content with the expense that I have been to you already. For no guest can be thus hospitably entertained by a friend, but that when he has been there three days running, he must now become a bore; but when he is prolonging his stay for ten successive days, he is a

nuisance to the household. Although the master willingly allows it, the servants grumble.

PERIPLECOMENUS
I have trained up the servants that are in my service, my guest, not to rule over me, or for me to be obedient to them. If that is disagreable to them which is agreable to me, I steer my own course; that which they don't like must still be done at their peril, and whether they like it or no. Now, as I intended, I shall go to market.

PLEUSICLES
If you are resolved, do cater somewhat within bounds, at no great expense; anything is enough for me.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Won't you now have done with that old-fashioned and antiquated talk? Now surely, guest, you are using the cant of the vulgar. For they are in the habit of saying, when they have taken their places, when dinner is put on table: "What necessity was there for you to go to this great expense on out account? Surely you were mad, for this same dinner was enough for ten persons." What has been provided on their account they find fault with; they eat it up, however.

PALAESTRIO
Troth, in that self-same fashion 'tis generally done. How clever and shrewd is his discernment.

PERIPLECOMENUS
But these same persons never say, although such an abundance has been provided, "Do order that to be taken off; do take away this dish; remove this gammon of bacon, I'll have none of it; put aside that piece of pork; this conger's good when cold; remove it, take and put it aside." You hear none of them saying this in earnest, but they stretch themselves out, while with half their bodies on the table, they are indulging their appetite.

PALAESTRIO
How cleverly the good soul has described their bad manners.

PERIPLECOMENUS
I have not said a hundredth part of what I could have enlarged upon had there been leisure for the matter.

PALAESTRIO
The business, then, that we are about — to that we ought first to turn our thoughts. Do you both, now, give me your attention. I have need, Periplecomenus, of your assistance; for I have hit upon a pleasant trick, how this Captain with his long locks may be fleeced quite close, and how we may effect a means for Philocomasium, and this her lover, that he may carry her off hence, and have her as his own.

PERIPLECOMENUS
I wish this plan to be imparted to me.

PALAESTRIO
And I, wish that ring of yours to be imparted to me.

PERIPLECOMENUS
For what purpose is it to be used?

PALAESTRIO
When I have got it, I will impart the plan of my devices.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Take and use it. (Gives him the ring.)

PALAESTRIO
Take from me in return the plan of my contrivance that I have hit upon.

PERIPLECOMENUS
We are listening to you with most attentive ear.

PALAESTRIO
My master is such a shocking rake among the women, that I think no one ever was his equal, nor ever will be.

PERIPLECOMENUS
I believe the same as well.

PALAESTRIO
He boasts, too, that his beauty exceeds that of Alexander; and, therefore, he says that all the women in Ephesus of their own accord are courting him.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Aye, faith, many there are who could wish that you were now telling an untruth about him. But I am convinced full well that it is as you say. For that reason, Palaestrio, do compress your words in as short a compass as ever you possibly can.

PALAESTRIO
Can you, then, find any woman of agreable person, whose mind and body are full of merriment and subtlety?

PERIPLECOMENUS
Free by birth, or bondwoman made free?

PALAESTRIO
I consider that a matter of indifference, so that you find one who is greedy for gain, who supports her body by her charms, who has, too, her senses all awake; as for her heart, that cannot be so, as none of them have one.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Do you want one that has taken her degrees, or one as yet a novice in the art?

PALAESTRIO
One sober but plump, a juicy bit; as taking a one as ever you can find, and one very young.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Why, I have one, a dependant of mine, a courtesan, a very young woman. But what is the occasion for her?

PALAESTRIO
For you to bring her home at once to your house as your wife, and, for that reason, to bring her there dressed out, so that she may wear her locks with her hair arranged, and fillets after the fashion of matrons, and may pretend that she is your wife; so you must instruct her.

PERIPLECOMENUS
I am at a loss what road you are taking.

PALAESTRIO
Well, you shall know. But what sort of a maid has she?

PERIPLECOMENUS
She is a rare clever one.

PALAESTRIO
We have need of her as well; so give your instructions to the damsel and her maid, to pretend that she is your wife and is doting upon this Captain; and as though she had given this ring to her maid, then she to me, that I might deliver it to the Captain; and I must be as though it were a go-between in this matter.

PERIPLECOMENUS
I hear you; don't stun my ears as if I were deaf.

PALAESTRIO
I myself will go straightway to him; I'll say that it has been brought and delivered to me from your wife, in order that I might introduce her to him. He'll be distractedly longing for her at home, a scoundrel that cares for nothing else whatever but intriguing.

PERIPLECOMENUS
If you had commissioned the Sun himself to search them out, he couldn't have found, better than myself, two more cleverly suited for this business. Be of good courage about it.

PALAESTRIO

Take you every care then. There is need of despatch. *(Exit PERIPLECOMENUS.)*

PALAESTRIO
Now, do you listen, Pleusicles.

PLEUSICLES
I am all attention to you.

PALAESTRIO
Take care of this. When the Captain comes home, do you remember not to call Philocomasium by her name.

PLEUSICLES
What am I to call her?

PALAESTRIO
Glycera.

PLEUSICLES
The same, you mean, that was agreed upon a little time since.

PALAESTRIO
Hush! — Be off.

PLEUSICLES
I'll remember; but still I don't know what use it is to keep it in my mind.

PALAESTRIO
But I will tell you, at the time, when occasion shall require. Meanwhile, be quiet; so that, bye and bye, when he too shall be acting his part, you may, on the instant, be minding your cue.

PLEUSICLES
I'll go in then.

PALAESTRIO

Go, and do take care steadily to follow my instructions.
PLEUSICLES goes into the house of PERIPLECOMENUS.

PALAESTRIO
What mighty turmoils I create! What mighty engines 1 do set to work! This very day I shall take his mistress away from the Captain, if my soldiers are only well drilled. But I'll call him out. *Goes to the door and calls.* Hallo! Sceledrus, if you are not busy, come out to the front of the house; I, Palaestrio, call you. *Enter LUCRIO from the CAPTAIN's house.*

LUCRIO
Sceledrus is not at leisure.

PALAESTRIO
Why so?

LUCRIO
He's fast asleep, gulping.

PALAESTRIO
How, gulping?

LUCRIO
He's snoring, 'twas that I meant to say: but, because 'tis very like gulping when you are snoring —— * * * * * * *

PALAESTRIO
What ! Is Sceledrus asleep in-doors?

LUCRIO
Not with his nose, in fact; for with that he is calling out loud enough.

PALAESTRIO
He has taken a cup by stealth; the butler has lately tapped a cask of nardine. Oho! you rascal, you are his deputy-butler. Oho!

LUCRIO

What do you mean?

PALAESTRIO
How has he thought fit to go to sleep?

LUCRIO
With his eyes, I suppose.

PALAESTRIO
I don't ask you that, you vagabond. Step this way: you're undone now, unless I know the truth. Did you draw the wine for him?

LUCRIO
I did not draw it.

PALAESTRIO
Do you deny it?

LUCRIO
I' faith, I do deny it undoubtedly; for he charged me not to tell. I really didn't just draw for him eight half pints into a pitcher, and, when drawn, he didn't just drink it hot, at his breakfast.

PALAESTRIO
And you didn't just drink as well?

LUCRIO
The Gods confound me if I did drink — if I could drink.

PALAESTRIO
Why so?

LUCRIO
Because, in fact, I only sipped; for it was too hot; it burnt my throat.

PALAESTRIO
Some are gloriously drunk, while others are drinking vinegar-water. The cellar's trusted to an honest butler, as well as under-butler.

LUCRIO
I' faith, you'd be doing the same, if it was entrusted to you. Since you can't follow our example, you are envious now.

PALAESTRIO
Come, now, did he ever draw any wine before this? Answer me, you rascal. And, that you may understand it, I give you this notice: if you purposely tell me an untruth, you shall be put to the torture.

LUCRIO
Indeed so? That you may inform, forsooth, that I told you; and then I shall be turned out of my fattening post in the cellar, that you may find another under-butler to draw for your own self.

PALAESTRIO
On my honour, I will not; come, speak out boldly to me.

LUCRIO
By my troth, I never saw him draw any. But thus was it; he requested me, and then I drew it.

PALAESTRIO
Think of that now! very frequently, I guess, the casks were standing on their heads there.

LUCRIO
No, faith, the casks would not have stood so very badly there. But there happened to be in the cellar a bit of a slippery spot; a two-pint pot was placed there, near the casks, in this fashion *shows the way* . Frequently, that was filled ten times in a day. When the pot acted the reveller, the casks were all tottering.

PALAESTRIO
Get you gone in-doors. Both of you, I find, are acting the revellers in the wine-cellar. I' faith, I shall fetch my master home just now from the Forum.

LUCRIO

aside . I'm ruined. My master, when he comes home, will have me tortured, when he knows of these doings. I' faith, I'll fly somewhither, and put off this punishment to another day. *To the AUDIENCE.* Don't you tell him, I do entreat you most earnestly. *He is going.*

PALAESTRIO
Whither are you betaking yourself?

LUCRIO
I am sent elsewhere: I'll come back here just now.

PALAESTRIO
Who has sent you?

LUCRIO
Philocomasium.

PALAESTRIO
Go; be back directly.

LUCRIO
If it is divided, prithee do you only take my share of the punishment while I'm away. *(Exit LUCRIO.) PALAESTRIO, alone.*

PALAESTRIO
So — I understand what scheme the lady is upon. Because Sceledrus is asleep, she has sent her under-keeper away out of doors, whilst she may pass from our house to next door. That's all right. *Looks down the street.* But Periplecomenus is bringing here a woman of very comely appearance, her, for whom I commissioned him. By my faith, the Gods are helping us in this matter. How becomingly drest she struts along, not like a Courtesan. This business is prospering charmingly in our hands. *Stands aside.*

Enter PERIPLECOMENUS, with ACROTELEUTIUM and MILPHIDIPPA.

PERIPLECOMENUS
as he advances . I have explained the whole affair, Acroteleutium, to you, and, Milphidippa, to you as well. If you don't well understand this device and plan, I wish you to hear it all over again. If you comprehend it aright, there is something else that we may speak of in preference.

ACROTELEUTIUM
I' faith, it would be folly, and ignorance, and foolishness, for me to engage in the service of another, or to promise you my assistance, if, in its fabrication, I did not know how to be either mischievous or clever at deceiving.

PERIPLECOMENUS
But, 'tis better for you to be instructed.

ACROTELEUTIUM
Really I don't understand of what great use it is for a Courtesan to be instructed. How now! have I told you all in vain, after my ears had drunk in the draughts of your discourse, in what fashion it was possible for the Captain to be cajoled?

PERIPLECOMENUS
But no one, unaided, is sufficiently perfect; for full oft have I seen many a person lose the road to good advice before they had found it.

ACROTELEUTIUM
If a woman has anything to do mischievously and maliciously, in that case her memory is immortal at remembering it for everlasting; but if anything is to be done for a good purpose, or honestly, it will fall out that those same women will become oblivious that instant, and be unable to remember.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Therefore do I fear that same, because both those things happen to be about to be done by us; for that will be a benefit to me in which you both will be acting mischievously towards the Captain.

ACROTELEUTIUM
So long as we do anything that's good, not knowing it, don't you fear. No woman is awkward * * * * * * Have no apprehensions, they are ready for the worst.

PERIPLECOMENUS
So it befits you. Do you follow me.

PALAESTRIO
advancing . Why do I hesitate to go and accost them?

PERIPLECOMENUS
Well met, and opportunely, Palaestrio. See, here they are whom you commissioned me to bring, and in the very dress.

PALAESTRIO
Well done: accept my thanks. I am glad that you have come safe. I' faith, you bring them nicely dressed Palaestrio salutes Acroteleutium.

ACROTELEUTIUM
Prithee, who's this, that calls me so familiarly by name?

PERIPLECOMENUS
This is our master-plotter.

ACROTELEUTIUM
Health to you, master-plotter.

PALAESTRIO
And health to you. But, tell me, has he any way given you full instructions?

PERIPLECOMENUS
I bring them both thoroughly prepared.

PALAESTRIO
I'd like to hear how. I'm afraid lest you should be making some mistake.

PERIPLECOMENUS
I have added to your instructions nothing new of my own.

ACROTELEUTIUM
I suppose you wish the Captain, your master, to be gulled.

PALAESTRIO
You've said what's true.

ACROTELEUTIUM
Cleverly and skilfully, adroitly and pleasantly, the whole thing is planned.

PALAESTRIO
In fact, I wish you to pretend to be his wife. *Points to PERIPLECOMENUS.*

ACROTELEUTIUM
That shall be done.

PALAESTRIO
To pretend as though you had set your affection on the Captain.

ACROTELEUTIUM
And so it shall be.

PALAESTRIO
And as though this affair is managed through me, as the go-between, and your servant-maid.

ACROTELEUTIUM
You might have made a good prophet; for you tell what is to be.

PALAESTRIO
As though this maid of yours had conveyed from you this ring to me, which I was then to deliver to the Captain, in your name.

ACROTELEUTIUM

You say what's true.

PERIPLECOMENUS
What need is there to mention these things now, which they remember so well?

ACROTELEUTIUM
Still, it is better. For think of this, my patron; when the shipwright is skilful, if he has once laid down the keel exact to its lines, 'tis easy to build the ship, when * * * * Now this keel of ours has been skilfully laid and firmly placed; the workmen and the master-builders are not unskilled in this business. If he who furnishes the timber does not retard us in giving what is needed, I know the adroitness of our ingenuity — soon will the ship be got ready.

PALAESTRIO
You know the Captain, my master, then?

ACROTELEUTIUM
'Tis strange you should ask me. How could I not know that scorn of the public, that swaggering, frizzle-headed, perfumed debauchee?

PALAESTRIO
But does he know you?

ACROTELEUTIUM
He never saw me: how, then, should he know who I am?

PALAESTRIO
'Tis most excellent what you say. For that reason, i' faith, the thing will be able to be managed all the more cleverly.

ACROTELEUTIUM
Can you only find me the man, and then be easy as to the rest? If I don't make a fool of the fellow, do you lay all the blame on me.

PALAESTRIO
Well, go you in then; apply yourselves to this business with all your

skill.

ACROTELEUTIUM
Trust me for that.

PALAESTRIO
Come, Periplecomenus, do you conduct them at once in-doors. I'm off to the Forum; I'll meet him, and give him this ring, and will tell him that it has been delivered to me from your wife, and that she is dying for him. As soon as we shall have come from the Forum, do you send her *(points to MILPHIDIPPA)* to our house as though she were privately sent to him.

PERIPLECOMENUS
We'll do so; trust us for that.

PALAESTRIO
Do you only attend to the business; I'll now polish him off with a pretty burden on his back. *(Exit.)*

PERIPLECOMENUS
Go, with good luck to you, manage the matter cleverly. *To ACROTELEUTIUM.* But now, if I shall manage this adroitly, that my guest can this day gain the mistress of the Captain, and carry her off hence to Athens; if, I say, this day we shall succeed in this plan, what shall I give you for a present?

ACROTELEUTIUM

* * * * * If now the lady seconds our efforts on her part, I think it will be right cleverly and adroitly managed. When a comparison shall be made of our artifices, I have no fear that I shall not prove superior in the cleverness of my contrivances.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Let's go in-doors, then, that we may deeply weigh these plans, that carefully and cautiously we may carry out what is to be done, so that, when the Captain comes, there may be no tripping.

ACROTELEUTIUM

You are delaying us with your talk. *They go into the house of PERIPLECOMENUS.*

ACT IV.

Enter PYRGOPOLINICES and PALAESTRIO.

PYRGOPOLINICES
'Tis a pleasure what you do, if it succeeds agreably and to your mind. For I this day have sent my Parasite to King Seleucus, to lead those soldiers, that I have levied, hence to Seleucus; in order that they may defend his kingdom till I have leisure to attend in person.

PALAESTRIO
Why don't you attend to your own concerns rather than those of Seleucus. What a charming new proposal is being offered to you through me as the negotiator.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Well then, I lay all other things aside, and I give my attention to you. Speak out: my ears, in fact, I surrender at your disposal.

PALAESTRIO
Look around, then, that no one here may be an eavesdropper for our discourse; for this business was entrusted me to transact with you in private.

PYRGOPOLINICES
(looks around). There's no one near.

PALAESTRIO
In the first place, receive from me this pledge of affection. *Gives him the ring.*

PYRGOPOLINICES
What's this? Whence comes it?

PALAESTRIO
From a charming and a handsome lady, one who loves you, and dotes upon your extreme beauty. Her maid just now gave me the ring

that I might then give it to you.

PYRGOPOLINICES
What? Is she free born or a freed woman, made free from a slave by the Praetor's rod?

PALAESTRIO
Pshaw! Should I presume to be the bearer of a message to you from a person once a slave, who cannot sufficiently answer the demands of the free women who are longing for you?

PYRGOPOLINICES
Is she wife, or is she widow?

PALAESTRIO
She is both wife and widow.

PYRGOPOLINICES
In what way is it possible for the same woman to be a wife and a widow?

PALAESTRIO
Because she is a young woman married to an old man.

PYRGOPOLINICES
That's good.

PALAESTRIO
She is of genteel and charming person.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Beware of misrepresenting.

PALAESTRIO
It is alone worthy to be compared with your own charms.

PYRGOPOLINICES
By my faith, you make her out to be a beauty. But who is she?

PALAESTRIO
The wife of that old gentleman, Periplecomenus, next door. She is dying for you, and wishes to leave him; she hates the old fellow. Now she has begged me to entreat and beseech you that you will give her your support and assistance.

PYRGOPOLINICES
I' faith, I'm ready for my part if she desires it.

PALAESTRIO
Doesn't she long for it?

PYRGOPOLINICES
What shall we do with that mistress of mine, who is at my house?

PALAESTRIO
Why, do you bid her to be gone about her business, wherever she chooses; as her twin-sister has come here to Ephesus, and her mother, and they are come to fetch her.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Ha! what's that you say? Has her mother come to Ephesus?

PALAESTRIO
Those say so who know it.

PYRGOPOLINICES
I' faith, a charming opportunity for me to turn the wench out of doors.

PALAESTRIO
Aye, but do you wish to do the thing handsomely?

PYRGOPOLINICES
Speak out, and give me your advice.

PALAESTRIO
Do you wish to pack her off forthwith, that she may quit you with a

good grace?

PYRGOPOLINICES
I do so wish.

PALAESTRIO
Then this is the thing you must do. You have a superabundance of wealth; bid the woman to keep as a present for herself the gold and trinkets which you have supplied her with, and to take herself off from your house wherever she likes.

PYRGOPOLINICES
It pleases me what you say; but yet, only think, if I should lose her, and the other change her mind?

PALAESTRIO
Pshaw! you're over nice; a lady, that loves you as her own eyes.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Venus befriends me.

PALAESTRIO
Hist! hush! the door is opening; come this way a little out of sight. *MILPHIDIPPA comes out of the house of PERIPLECOMENUS.* This is her fly-boat-her go-between, that's coming out there.

PYRGOPOLINICES
How so — fly-boat?

PALAESTRIO
This is her maid that is coming ut of the house, she that brought that ring which I delivere to you.

PYRGOPOLINICES
I' faith, she too is a prettyish wench.

PALAESTRIO
This one is a little monkey and an owl in comparison with the other.

Do you see how she hunts around with her eyes, and goes fowling about with her ears. *They stand aside.*

Enter MILPHIDIPPA.

MILPHIDIPPA
as she enters . My Circus, then, is before the house, where my sports are to take place. I'll make pretence, as though I didn't see them, or knew as yet that they are here.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Hush! let's quietly listen, whether any mention is made of me.

MILPHIDIPPA
aloud . Is there no one near at hand here, to attend to another's business rather than his own? — to prowl after me to see what I'm about? No one who is feeding this evening at his own expense? I dread such men as these, lest they should now come in the way, or prove an hindrance somehow, should my mistress privately pass from her house this way, who is so enamoured of his person, who so dotes upon this very charming man with his exceeding beauty — the Captain Pyrgopolinices

PYRGOPOLINICES
And doesn't she dote upon me, too? She is praising my beauty.

PALAESTRIO
I' faith, her language stands in need of no ashes.

PYRGOPOLINICES
For what reason?

PALAESTRIO
Why, because her language is clean spoken and far from slovenly. Whatever she says about yourself, she handles it in no slovenly way. And, then, besides, she herself is a very pretty and a very dainty wench.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Troth, indeed, she has made an impression already, Palaestrio, at first sight.

PALAESTRIO
What! before you have seen the other with your eyes?

PYRGOPOLINICES
What I see, in that I have faith for myself; for this mackerel, in the absence of the mullet, compels me to be in love with her.

PALAESTRIO
I' faith, you really mustn't be falling in love with her, she's engaged to me. If the other weds you to-day, forthwith I shall take this one for my wife.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Why, then, do you delay to accost her?

PALAESTRIO
Follow me this way, then.

PYRGOPOLINICES
I am your lackey at your heels.

MILPHIDIPPA
aloud . I wish that I had an opportunity of meeting him on account of whom I came here out of doors.

PALAESTRIO
accosting her . It shall be so, and you shall have what you so greatly wish; be of good courage, don't fear; there is a certain person who knows where that is which you are seeking.

MILPHIDIPPA
Who's that I hear at hand?

PALAESTRIO

The sharer of your plans and the partaker of your secrets.

MILPHIDIPPA
I' faith, then, what I do conceal I don't conceal.

PALAESTRIO
Aye, but still you don't conceal it this way.

MILPHIDIPPA
How so?

PALAESTRIO
From the uninitiated you conceal them. I am sure and trustworthy to you.

MILPHIDIPPA
Give me the sign, if you are one of these votaries.

PALAESTRIO
A certain lady loves a certain gentleman.

MILPHIDIPPA
Faith, many ladies do that indeed.

PALAESTRIO
But not many ladies send a present from off their fingers.

MILPHIDIPPA
Aye, I know now. You've now made the matter level for me instead of steep. But is there a certain person here?

PALAESTRIO
Either he is or he is not.

MILPHIDIPPA
Come aside with me alone, in private.

PALAESTRIO
For a short or for a lengthy conversation?

MILPHIDIPPA
For three words only.

PALAESTRIO
to PYRGOPOLINICES . I'll return to you this instant.

PYRGOPOLINICES
What? Shall I be standing here in the meanwhile, with such charms and valorous deeds, thus to no purpose?

PALAESTRIO
Submit to it and wait; for you am I doing this service.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Make haste; I am tortured with waiting.

PALAESTRIO
You know that commodities of this kind are only wont to be reached step by step.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Well, well; as is most agreable to yourself.

PALAESTRIO
aside . There is no stone more stupid than this fellow. I now return to you. *To MILPHIDIPPA.* What would you with me? *Retires with her to distance.*

MILPHIDIPPA
In the way in which I received it of you a short time since, I bring you back your clever lot; my story is as though she were dying with love for him.

PALAESTRIO
That 1 understand. Do you commend his beauty and his appearance, and make mention of his prowess.

MILPHIDIPPA

For that purpose I am armed at all points, as I have shown you before already. On the other hand, do you give all attention, and be on the watch, and take your cue from my words.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Prithee do now, in fine, give me some share in the business; step this way this instant, I beg.

PALAESTRIO
goes up to him . Here I am. If you wish for aught, give me your commands.

PYRGOPOLINICES
What is she saying to you?

PALAESTRIO
She is saying that her mistress is lamenting, and, in tears, is tormenting and afflicting herself because she wishes for you, and because she possesses you not; for that reason has she been sent here to you.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Bid her approach.

PALAESTRIO
But do you know how you are to act? Pretend that you are full of disdain, as though it pleased you not; exclaim against me, because I make you so common to the mob.

PYRGOPOLINICES
I remember, and I'll follow your instructions.

PALAESTRIO
I'll call her, then, who is inquiring after you.

PYRGOPOLINICES
If she wants anything, let her come.

PALAESTRIO
Wench, if you want anything, step this way.

MILPHIDIPPA
approaching . Save you, charmer.

PYRGOPOLINICES
She makes mention of my surname. May the Gods grant you whatever you may desire.

MILPHIDIPPA
To pass life with you is the wish of ——

PYRGOPOLINICES
You are wishing too much.

MILPHIDIPPA
I am not speaking of myself, but of my mistress, who is dying for you.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Many others are wishing for the same thing, who have not the opportunity.

MILPHIDIPPA
By my troth, 'tis not to be wondered at; you set a high value on yourself — a person so handsome, and so illustrious for his prowess, and so valorous in his deeds! O! was there ever any one more worthy to be a man?

PALAESTRIO
aside . I' faith, the filthy fellow is not a human being; indeed, I think there is something more human in a vulture.

PYRGOPOLINICES
aside . Now I shall make myself of importance, since she so praises me up. *Struts about.*

PALAESTRIO
aside . Do you see the blockhead, how he struts? *To PYRGOPOLINICES.* But will you not answer her; she is the woman that's come from the lady whom I was mentioning just now.

PYRGOPOLINICES
But from which one of them? For there are so many courting me, I cannot remember them all.

MILPHIDIPPA
From her who strips her own fingers and adorns your fingers; for I delivered to him *pointing to PALAESTRIO* that ring from her who is sighing for you, and then he to you.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Tell me, wench, what is it you want then?

MILPHIDIPPA
That you will not despise her who is sighing for you; who lives now but in your life: whether she is to exist or not, her hope is in you alone.

PYRGOPOLINICES
What does she want then?

MILPHIDIPPA
To talk with you, to embrace you, and to be intimate with you. For unless you bring her succour, she will soon be quite desponding in her mind. Come, my Achilles, let that be done which I entreat; save her, charmer, by your charming ways. Call forth your kind disposition, stormer of cities, slayer of kings.

PYRGOPOLINICES
O! by my troth, 'tis a vexatious thing! *To PALAESTRIO.* How often, whip-scoundrel, have I forbidden you to make promises of my attention thus common.

PALAESTRIO

Do you hear that, hussy? I have told you already, and I now tell you again, unless a fee is given to this boar- pig, he cannot possibly throw away his attentions in any quarter.

MILPHIDIPPA
A fee shall be given, as large as he shall demand.

PALAESTRIO
He requires a talent of gold, in Philippean pieces. Less he will take from no one.

MILPHIDIPPA
O, by my troth, but that's too little, surely.

PYRGOPOLINICES
By nature there's no avarice in me; I have riches enough. I' faith! I've more than a thousand measures full of Philippean gold coins.

PALAESTRIO
Besides your treasures. Then, of silver, he has mountains, not ingots; Aetna is not so high.

MILPHIDIPPA
aside . By the stars! O, what a lie!

PALAESTRIO
to MILPHIDIPPA, aside . How rarely I am playing him off!

MILPHIDIPPA
to PALAESTRIO, aside . And I; how do I do it? Ain't I gulling him?

PALAESTRIO
aside . Rarely.

MILPHIDIPPA
But, prithee, do let me go now.

PALAESTRIO

to the CAPTAIN . But do you give her some answer, either that you will do it, or that you won't do it. Why cause this poor lady so much anguish of mind, who has never deserved any ill of you?

PYRGOPOLINICES
Bid her come to me herself. Tell her that I will do everything that she requires.

MILPHIDIPPA
You now act as it is proper for you to act. since you wish the same yourself that she is wishing.

PALAESTRIO
to himself, aside . No poor faculty of invention has she.

MILPHIDIPPA
Since too you have not scouted your petitioner, and nave suffered me to prevail upon you. *Aside to PALAESTRIO.* How now? Haven't I played him off?

PALAESTRIO
aside to MILPHIDIPPA . Faith, I couldn't refrain from laughing.

MILPHIDIPPA
aside to PALAESTRIO . Yes; and for the same reason I turned in this direction away from you.

PYRGOPOLINICES
By my troth, wench, you don't understand how great an honor I am now paying her.

MILPHIDIPPA
I know, and I shall tell her so.

PALAESTRIO
To another he could have sold his favours for his weight in gold.

MILPHIDIPPA

I’ faith, I believe you in that.

PALAESTRIO
Of those that are parents by him true warriors are born, and his sons live eight hundred years.

MILPHIDIPPA
aside to PALAESTRIO . Fie on you for a fibber!

PYRGOPOLINICES
Why, straight on, from age to age, they live for a thousand years.

PALAESTRIO
I spoke within limits, for the reason that she mightn’t suppose I was telling lies to her.

MILPHIDIPPA
aside . I burst, I die! *Aloud.* How many years will he live himself whose sons live so long?

PYRGOPOLINICES
Wench, I was born the day after Jupiter was born of Ops.

PALAESTRIO
If he had only been born the day before the other was, he would have had the realms of heaven.

MILPHIDIPPA
aside to PALAESTRIO . Now, now, prithee, no more do let me get away from you, if I can, alive.

PALAESTRIO
Why don’t you go then, as you have your answer?

MILPHIDIPPA
I’ll go, and I’ll bring her here, on whose behalf I am employed. Is there aught else you wish?

PYRGOPOLINICES
May I never be more handsome than I am at pre sent; so much trouble do my good looks cause me.

PALAESTRIO
Why do you stay now? Why don't you go?

MILPHIDIPPA
I'm going.

PALAESTRIO
aside to MILPHIDIPPA . And tell her, too, do you hear, cleverly and correctly, what has passed.

MILPHIDIPPA
to PALAESTRIO . So that her very heart may leap for joy.

PALAESTRIO
aside to MILPHIDIPPA If Philocomasium is there, tell her to pass through into our house; that the Captain here.

MILPHIDIPPA
to PALAESTRIO . She is there with my mistress for, on the sly, they have been overhearing this conversation.

PALAESTRIO
aside to MILPHIDIPPA . 'Twas cleverly done; here after they will take their cue the more readily from this conversation.

MILPHIDIPPA
to PALAESTRIO . You are delaying me. I'm off.

PALAESTRIO
to MILPHIDIPPA . I'm not delaying you, nor touching you, nor — I'm mum.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Bid her make haste to come out here; we'll give our first attention to

this matter especially. *MILPHIDIPPA goes into the house of PERIPLECOMENUS.*

PYRGOPOLINICES, PALAESTRIO.

PYRGOPOLINICES
What do you advise me now to do, Palaestrio, about my mistress? For this lady can by no means be received into my house before I have sent the other away.

PALAESTRIO
Why consult me what you are to do? So far as I am concerned, I have told you by what method that can be effected in the gentlest manner. The gold trinkets and female clothing with which you have furnished her, let her keep it all for herself: let her take it, be off, and carry it away: tell her that it is high time for her to go home; say that her twin-sister and her mother are come, in company with whom she may go straight home.

PYRGOPOLINICES
How do you know that they are here?

PALAESTRIO
Because, with my own eyes, I've seen her sister here.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Have you met her?

PALAESTRIO
I have met her.

PYRGOPOLINICES
And did she seem a brisk wench?

PALAESTRIO
You are wishing to have everything.

PYRGOPOLINICES

Where did the sister say her mother was?

PALAESTRIO
The captain that brought them told me that she was in bed, on board the ship, with sore and inflamed eyes. This captain of the ship is lodging with them next door.

PYRGOPOLINICES
And he, too, is he a very fine fellow?

PALAESTRIO
Away with you, if you please. What have you to do with him? You have your hands quite full enough with the women. Attend to this for the present.

PYRGOPOLINICES
As to that advice you were giving me, I wish you to have a few words with her upon that subject. For, really, a conversation on that subject with her is more becoming for you.

PALAESTRIO
What is more advisable than for you to go yourself, and transact your own concerns? You must say that it is absolutely necessary for you to marry: that your relations are persuading, your friends are urging, you.

PYRGOPOLINICES
And do you think so?

PALAESTRIO
Why shouldn't I think so?

PYRGOPOLINICES
I'll go in, then. Do you, in the mean time, keep watch here before the house, that when the other woman comes out you may call me out.

PALAESTRIO
Do you only mind the business that you are upon.

PYRGOPOLINICES
That, indeed, is resolved upon. For if she will not go out of her own accord, I'll turn her out by force.

PALAESTRIO
Do you take care how you do that; but rather let her go from your house with a good grace, and give her those things that I mentioned. The gold trinkets and apparel, with which you furnished her, let her take away.

PYRGOPOLINICES
By my troth, I wish she would.

PALAESTRIO
I think you'll easily prevail upon her. But go indoors; don't linger here.

PYRGOPOLINICES
I obey you. *Goes into his house* .

PALAESTRIO
to the AUDIENCE . Now, does he really appear to be anything different from what, awhile ago, I told you he was, this wenching Captain? Now it is requisite that Acroteleutium should come to me, her maid too, and Pleusicles. O Jupiter! and does not opportunity favour me in every respect? For those whom I especially wished to see, I perceive at this moment coming out here from our neighbour's.

Enter ACROTELEUTIUM, MILPHIDIPPA, and PLEUSICLES from the house of PERIPLECOMENUS.

ACROTELEUTIUM
Follow me; at the same time look around, that there may be no overlooker.

MILPHIDIPPA
Faith, I see no one, only him whom we want to meet.

PALAESTRIO
Just as I want you.

MILPHIDIPPA
How do you do, our master-plotter?

PALAESTRIO
I, the master-plotter? Nonsense.

MILPHIDIPPA
How so?

PALAESTRIO
Because, in comparison with yourself, I am not worthy to fix a beam in a wall.

ACROTELEUTIUM
Aye, indeed so.

PALAESTRIO
She's a very fluent and a very clever hand at mischief. How charmingly she did polish off the Captain.

MILPHIDIPPA
But still, not enough.

PALAESTRIO
Be of good courage all the business is now prospering under our hands. Only do you, as you have begun, still give a helping hand; for the Captain himself has gone in-doors, to entreat his mistress to leave his house, with her mother and sister, for Athens.

PLEUSICLES
Very good — well done.

PALAESTRIO
Besides, all the gold trinkets and apparel which he himself has provided for the damsel, he gives her to keep as a present for herself

— so have I recommended him.

PLEUSICLES
Really, it's easily done, if both she wishes it, and he desires it as well.

PALAESTRIO
Don't you know that when, from a deep well, you have ascended up to the top, there is the greatest danger lest you should thence fall back again from the top. This affair is now being carried on at the top of the well. If the Captain should have a suspicion of it, nothing whatever of his will be able to be carried off. Now, most especially, we have need of clever contrivances.

PLEUSICLES
I see that there is material enough at home for that purpose — three women, yourself the fourth, I am the fifth, the old gentleman the sixth.

PALAESTRIO
What an edifice of stratagems has been erected by us! I know for certain. that any town seems as though it could be taken by these plans: only do you lend your assistance.

ACROTELEUTIUM
For that purpose are we come to you, to see if you wish for anything.

PALAESTRIO
You do what's à propos. Now to you do I assign this department.

ACROTELEUTIUM
General, you shall assign me whatever you please, so far as I am capable.

PALAESTRIO
I wish this Captain to be played off cleverly and adroitly.

ACROTELEUTIUM

I' faith, you're assigning me what's a pleasure to me.

PALAESTRIO
But do you understand how?

ACROTELEUTIUM
You mean that I must pretend that I am distracted with love for him.

PALAESTRIO
Right — you have it.

ACROTELEUTIUM
And as though by reason of that love I had fcregone my present marriage, longing for a match with him.

PALAESTRIO
Everything exactly in its due order; except only this one point; you must say that this house *pointing to the house of PERIPLECOMENUS* was your marriage-portion; that the old man had departed hence from you after you had carried out the divorce, lest he should be afraid just now to come here into the house of another man.

ACROTELEUTIUM
You advise me well.

PALAESTRIO
But when he comes out from in-doors, I wish you — standing at a distance there — so to make pretence, as though in comparison with his beauty you despised your own, and as though you were struck with awe at his opulent circumstances; at the same time, too, praise the comeliness of his person, the beauty of his face. Are you tutored enough?

ACROTELEUTIUM
I understand it all. Is it enough that I give you my work so nicely finished off that you cannot find a fault with it.

PALAESTRIO
I'm content. Now *addressing PLEUSICLES* , in your turn, learn what charge I shall give to you So soon as this shall be done, when she shall have gone in, then do you immediately take care to come here dressed in the garb of a master of a ship. Have on a broad-brimmed hat of iron-grey, a woollen shade before your eyes; have on an iron-grey cloak (for that is the seaman's colour); have it fastened over the left shoulder, your right arm projecting out, * * * * * * your clothes some way well girded up, pretend as though you are some master of a ship. And all these requisites are at the house of this old gentleman, for he keeps fishermen.

PLEUSICLES
Well, when I'm dressed out, why don't you tell me what I'm to do then?

PALAESTRIO
Come here, and, in the name of her mother, bring word to Philocomasium, that, if she would return to Athens, she must go with you to the harbour directly, and that she must order it to be carried down to the ship if she wishes anything to be put on board; that if she doesn't go, you must weigh anchor, for the wind is favourable.

PLEUSICLES
I like your plan much: do proceed.

PALAESTRIO
The Captain will at once advise her to go speedily that she may not delay her mother.

PLEUSICLES
Every way you are clever.

PALAESTRIO
I shall tell him that she asks for me as a helper to carry her baggage down to the harbour. I shall go, and, understand you, I shall immediately be off with you straight to Athens.

PLEUSICLES
And when you have reached there, I'll never let you be ashore three days before you're free.

PALAESTRIO
Be off speedily and equip yourself.

PLEUSICLES
Is there anything besides?

PALAESTRIO
Only to remember all this.

PLEUSICLES
I'm off. *Exit.*

PALAESTRIO
And do you *to ACROTELEUTIUM and MILPHIDIPPA* be off hence in-doors this instant, for I'm quite sure that he'll just now be coming out hence from in-doors.

ACROTELEUTIUM
With us your command is as good as law.

PALAESTRIO
Come, then, begone. But see, the door opens opportunely. *The women go into the house of PERIPLECOMENUS.*

Enter PYRGOPOLINICES from his house.

PYRGOPOLINICES
What I wished I have obtained just as I wished, on kind and friendly terms, that she would leave me.

PALAESTRIO
For what reason am I to say that you have been so long in-doors?

PYRGOPOLINICES

I never was so sensible that I was beloved by that woman as now.

PALAESTRIO
Why so?

PYRGOPOLINICES
How many words she did utter! How the matter was protracted! But in the end I obtained what I wanted, and I granted her what she wanted and what she asked of me. I made a present of you also to her.

PALAESTRIO
What — me, too? In what way shall I exist without you?

PYRGOPOLINICES
Come, be of good heart; I'll make you free from exit, too. But I used all endeavours, if I could by any method persuade her to go away, and not take you with her, she forced me, however.

PALAESTRIO
In the Gods and yourself I'll place my trust. Yet, at the last, although it is bitter to me that I must be deprived of an excellent master, yourself, at least it is a pleasure to me that, through my means, by reason of the excellence of your beauty, this has happened to you with regard to this lady neighbour, whom I am now introducing to you.

PYRGOPOLINICES
What need of words? I'll give you liberty and wealth if you obtain her for me.

PALAESTRIO
I'll win her.

PYRGOPOLINICES
But I'm impatient.

PALAESTRIO

But moderation is requisite; curb your desires; don't be over anxious. But see, here she is herself; she is coming out of doors.

Enter ACROTELEUTIUM and MILPHIDIPPA from the house of PERIPLECOMENUS.

MILPHIDIPPA
in a low voice . Mistress, see! the Captain's near.

ACROTELEUTIUM
in a low voice . Where is he?

MILPHIDIPPA
Only look to the left. Eye him askance, that he mayn't perceive that we are looking at him.

ACROTELEUTIUM
I see him. Troth, now's the time, in our mischief, for us to become supremely mischievous.

MILPHIDIPPA
'Tis for you to begin.

ACROTELEUTIUM
aloud . Prithee, did you see him yourself? *Aside.* Don't spare your voice, so that he may hear.

MILPHIDIPPA
aloud . By my troth, I talked with his own self, at my ease, as long as I pleased, at my leisure, at my own discretion, just as I wished.

PYRGOPOLINICES
to PALAESTRIO . Do you hear what she says?

PALAESTRIO
to PYRGOPOLINICES . I hear. How delighted she is because she had access to you.

ACROTELEUTIUM
aloud . O happy woman that you are!

PYRGOPOLINICES
How I do seem to be loved!

PALAESTRIO
You are deserving of it.

MILPHIDIPPA
aloud . By my troth, 'tis passing strange what you say, that you had access to him and prevailed. They say that he is usually addressed, like a king, through letters or messengers.

MILPHIDIPPA
aloud . But, i' faith, 'twas with difficulty I had an opportunity of approaching and beseeching him.

PALAESTRIO
to PYRGOPOLINICES . How renowned you are among the fair

PYRGOPOLINICES
to PALAESTRIO . I shall submit, since Venus wills it so.

ACROTELEUTIUM
aloud . By heavens! I return to Venus grateful thanks, and her I do beseech and entreat, that I may win him whom I love and whom I seek to win, and that to me he may prove gentle, and not make a difficulty about what I desire.

MILPHIDIPPA
aloud . I hope it may be so; although many ladies are seeking to win him for themselves, he disdains them and estranges himself from all but you alone.

ACROTELEUTIUM
aloud . Therefore this fear torments me, since he is so disdainful, lest his eyes, when he beholds me, should change his sentiments, and his

own gracefulness should at once disdain my form.

MILPHIDIPPA
aloud . He will not do so; be of good heart.

PYRGOPOLINICES
to PALAESTRIO . How she does slight herself!

ACROTELEUTIUM
aloud . I fear lest your account may have surpassed my looks.

MILPHIDIPPA
aloud. I've taken care of this, that you shall be fairer than his expectations.

ACROTELEUTIUM
aloud . Troth, if he shall refuse to take me as his wife, by heavens I'll embrace his knees and entreat him! If I shall be unable to prevail on him, in some way or other, I'll put myself to death. I'm quite sure that without him I cannot live.

PYRGOPOLINICES
to PALAESTRIO . I see that I must prevent this woman's death. Shall I accost her?

PALAESTRIO
By no means; for you will be making yourself cheap if you lavish yourself away of your own accord. Let her come spontaneously, seek you, court you, strive to win you. Unless you wish to lose that glory which you have, please have a care what you do. For I know that this was never the lot of any mortal, except two persons, yourself and Phaon of Lesbos, to be loved so desperately.

ACROTELEUTIUM
aloud . I'll go in-doors — or, my dear Milphidippa, do you call him out of doors.

MILPHIDIPPA

aloud . Aye; let's wait until some one comes out.

ACROTELEUTIUM
aloud . I can't restrain myself from going il to him.

MILPHIDIPPA
aloud . The door's fastened. ACROT. *aloud* . I'll break it in then.

MILPHIDIPPA
aloud . You are not in your senses.

ACROTELEUTIUM
aloud . If he has ever loved, or if he has wisdom equal to his beauty, whatever I may do through love, he will pardon me by reason of his compassionate feelings.

PALAESTRIO
to PYRGOPOLINICES . Prithee, do see, how distracted the poor thing is with love.

PYRGOPOLINICES
to PALAESTRIO . 'Tis mutual in us.

PALAESTRIO
Hush! Don't you let her hear.

MILPHIDIPPA
aloud . Why do you stand stupefied? Why don't you knock?

ACROTELEUTIUM
aloud . Because he is not within whom I want.

MILPHIDIPPA
aloud . How do you know?

ACROTELEUTIUM
aloud . By my troth, I do know it easily; for my nose would scent him if he were within.

PYRGOPOLINICES
to PALAESTRIO . She is a diviner. Because she is in love with me, Venus has made her prophesy.

ACROTELEUTIUM
aloud . He is somewhere or other close at hand whom I do so long to behold. I'm sure I smell him.

PYRGOPOLINICES
to PALAESTRIO . Troth, now, she really sees better with her nose than with her eyes.

PALAESTRIO
to PYRGOPOLINICES . She is blind from love.

ACROTELEUTIUM
aloud . Prithee, do support me.

MILPHIDIPPA
aloud . Why?

ACROTELEUTIUM
aloud . Lest I should fall.

MILPHIDIPPA
aloud . Why?

ACROTELEUTIUM
aloud . Because I cannot stand; my senses — my senses are sinking so by reason of my eyes.

MILPHIDIPPA
aloud . Heavens! you've seen the Captain.

ACROTELEUTIUM
aloud . I have.

MILPHIDIPPA

aloud . I don't see him. Where is he?

ACROTELEUTIUM
aloud . Troth, you would see him if you were in tove.

MILPHIDIPPA
aloud . I' faith, you don't love him more than I do myself, with your good leave.

PALAESTRIO
to PYRGOPOLINICES . No doubt all of the women, as soon as each has seen you, are in love with you.

PYRGOPOLINICES
to PALAESTRIO . I don't know whether you have heard it from me or not; I'm the grandson of Venus.

ACROTELEUTIUM
aloud . My dear Milphidippa, prithee do approach and accost him.

PYRGOPOLINICES
to PALAESTRIO . How she does stand in awe of me!

PALAESTRIO
to PYRGOPOLINICES . She is coming towards us.

MILPHIDIPPA
advancing . I wish to speak with you.

PYRGOPOLINICES
And we with you.

MILPHIDIPPA
I have brought my mistress out of the house, as you requested me.

PYRGOPOLINICES
So I see.

MILPHIDIPPA

Request her, then, to approach.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Since you have entreated it, I have prevailed upon my mind not to detest her just like other women.

MILPHIDIPPA
I' faith she wouldn't be able to utter a word if she were to come near you; while she was looking at you, her eyes have in the meantime tied her tongue.

PYRGOPOLINICES
I see that this woman's disorder must be cured.

MILPHIDIPPA
See how terrified she is since she beheld you.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Even armed men are the same; don't wonder at a woman being so. But what does she wish me to do?

MILPHIDIPPA
You to come to her house; she wishes to live and to pass her life with you.

PYRGOPOLINICES
What! — I come home to her, when she is a married woman? Her husband is to be stood in fear of.

MILPHIDIPPA
Why, — for your sake, she has turned her husband out of her house.

PYRGOPOLINICES
How? How could she do so?

MILPHIDIPPA
The house was her marriage-portion.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Was it so?

MILPHIDIPPA
It was so, on my word.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Bid her go home; I'll be there just now.

MILPHIDIPPA
Take care, and don't keep her in expectation; don't torment her feelings.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Not I, indeed. Do you go then.

MILPHIDIPPA
We are going. *ACROTELEUTIUM and MILPHIDIPPA go into the house of PERIPLECOMENUS.*

PYRGOPOLINICES
But what do I see?

PALAESTRIO
What do you see?

PYRGOPOLINICES
See there, some one is coming, I know not who, but in a sailor's dress.

PALAESTRIO
He is surely wanting us, now; really, it is the shipmaster.

PYRGOPOLINICES
He's come, I suppose, to fetch her.

PALAESTRIO
I fancy so.

Enter PLEUSICLES, at a distance, in a Sailor's dress.

PLEUSICLES
to himself . Did I not know that another man in other ways has done many a thing unbecomingly on account of love, I should be more ashamed by reason of love for me to be going in this garb. But since I have learned that many persons by reason of love have committed many actions, disgraceful and estranged from what is good, * * * * * for I pass by how Achilles suffered his comrades to be slain —— But there's Palaestrio, he's standing with the Captain. My talk must now be changed for another kind. Woman is surely born of tardiness itself. For every other delay, which is a delay just as much, seems a less delay than that which is on account of a woman. I really think that this is done merely from habit. But I shall call for this Philocomasium. I'll knock at the door then. Hallo! is there any one here? *Knocks at the CAPTAIN'S door.*

PALAESTRIO
Young man — what is it? What do you want? Why are you knocking?

PLEUSICLES
I'm come to inquire for Philocomasium; I'm come from her mother. If she's for going, let her set off. She is delaying us all; we wish to weigh anchor.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Her things have been some time in readiness. Hearkye, Palaestrio, take some assistants with you to carry to the ship her golden trinkets, her furniture, apparel, all her precious things. All the articles are already packed up which I gave her.

PALAESTRIO
I'll go. *Goes into the house.*

PLEUSICLES
Troth now, prithee, do make haste.

PYRGOPOLINICES
There shall be no delay. Pray, what is it that has been done with your eye?

PLEUSICLES
Troth, hut I have my eye. *Points to the right one.*

PYRGOPOLINICES
But the left one I mean.

PLEUSICLES
I'll tell you. On account of the sea, I use this eye less; but if I kept away from the sea, I should use the one like the other. But they are detaining me too long.

PYRGOPOLINICES
See, here they are coming out.

Enter PALAESTRIO and PHILOCOMASIUM from the CAPTAIN'S house.

PALAESTRIO
to PHILOCOMASIUM . Prithee, when will you this day make an end of your weeping?

PHILOCOMASIUM
What can I do but weep? I am going away hence where I have spent my days most happily.

PALAESTRIO
See, there's the man that has come from your mother and sister *pointing to PLEUSICLES* .

PHILOCOMASIUM
I see him.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Palaestrio, do you hear?

PALAESTRIO
What is your pleasure?

PYRGOPOLINICES
Aren't you ordering those presents to be brought out which I gave her?

PLEUSICLES
Health to you, Philocomasium.

PHILOCOMASIUM
And health to you.

PLEUSICLES
Your mother and sister bade me give their love to you.

PHILOCOMASIUM
Heaven prosper them.

PLEUSICLES
They beg you to set out, so that, while the wind is fair, they may set sail. But if your mother's eyes had been well, she would have come together with me.

PHILOCOMASIUM
I'll go; although I do it with regret-duty compels me.

PLEUSICLES
You act wisely.

PYRGOPOLINICES
If she had not been passing her life with myself, this day she would have been a blockhead.

PHILOCOMASIUM
I am distracted at this, that I am estranged from such a man. For you are able to make any woman what-ever abound in wit; and because I was living with you, for that reason I was of a very lofty spirit. I see

that I must lose that loftiness of mind. *Pretends to cry.*

PYRGOPOLINICES
Don't weep.

PHILOCOMASIUM
I can't help it when I look upon you.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Be of good courage.

PHILOCOMASIUM
I know what pain it is to me.

PALAESTRIO
I really don't wonder now, Philocomasium, if you were here with happiness to yourself, when I, a servant — as I look at him, weep because we are parting *pretends to cry* , so much have his beauty, his manners, his valour, captivated your feelings.

PHILOCOMASIUM
Prithee, do let me embrace you before I depart?

PYRGOPOLINICES
By all means

PHILOCOMASIUM
embracing him . O my eyes! O my life!

PALAESTRIO
Do hold up the woman, I entreat you, lest she should fall. *He takes hold of her, and she pretends to faint.*

PYRGOPOLINICES
What means this?

PALAESTRIO
Because, after she had quitted you, she suddenly became faint, poor

thing.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Run in and fetch some water.

PALAESTRIO
I want no water; but I had rather you would keep at a distance. Prithee, don't you interfere till she comes to.

PYRGOPOLINICES
observing PLEUSICLES, who is holding PHILOCOMASIUM in his arm. They have their heads too closely in contact between them; I don't like it; he is soldering his lips to hers. What the plague are you about?

PLEUSICLES
I was trying whether she was breathing or not.

PYRGOPOLINICES
You ought to have applied your ear then.

PLEUSICLES
If you had rather, I'll let her go.

PYRGOPOLINICES
No, I don't care; do you support her.

PALAESTRIO
To my misery, I'm quite distracted.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Go and bring here from in-doors all the things that I have given her.

PALAESTRIO
And even now, household God, do I salute thee before I depart; my fellow-servants, both male and female, all farewell, and happy may you live; prithee, though absent, among yourselves bestow your blessings upon me as well.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Come, Palaestrio, be of good courage.

PALAESTRIO
Alas! alas! I cannot but weep since from you I must depart.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Bear it with patience.

PHILOCOMASIUM
feigning to recover . Ha! how's this? What means it? Hail, O light!

PLEUSICLES
Are you recovered now?

PHILOCOMASIUM
Prithee, what person am I embracing? I'm undone. Am I myself?

PLEUSICLES
in a low voice . Fear not, my delight.

PYRGOPOLINICES
What means all this?

PALAESTRIO
Just now she swooned away here. * * * * * * I fear and dread that this at last may take place too openly.

PYRGOPOLINICES
What is that you say?

PALAESTRIO
I fear that some one may turn it to your discredit, while all these things are being carried after us through the city.

PYRGOPOLINICES
I have given away my own property, and not theirs. I care but little for other people. Be off then, go with the blessing of the Gods.

PALAESTRIO
’Tis for your sake I say it.

PYRGOPOLINICES
I believe you.

PALAESTRIO
And now farewell!

PYRGOPOLINICES
And heartily farewell to you!

PALAESTRIO
to PLEUSICLES and PHILOCOMASIUM as they leave. Go you quickly on; I’ll overtake you directly; I wish to speak a few words with my master. *To PYRGOPOLINICES.* Although you have ever deemed others more faithful to yourself than me, still do I owe you many thanks for all things; and if such were your feelings, I would rather be a slave to you by far than be the freedman of another.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Be of good courage.

PALAESTRIO
Ah me! When it comes in my mind, how my manners must be changed, how womanish manners must be learnt, and the military ones forgotten!

PYRGOPOLINICES
Take care and be honest.

PALAESTRIO
I can be so no longer; I have lost all inclination.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Go, follow them; don’t linger.

PALAESTRIO

Fare you right well.

PYRGOPOLINICES
And heartily fare you well.

PALAESTRIO
Prithee, do remember me; if perchance I should happen to be made free, I'll send the news to you; don't you forsake me.

PYRGOPOLINICES
That is not my habit.

PALAESTRIO
Consider every now and then how faithful I have been to you. If you do that, then at last you'll know who is honest towards you and who dishonest.

PYRGOPOLINICES
I know it; I have often found that true, as well before as to-day in especial.

PALAESTRIO
Do you know it? Aye, and this day I'll make you hereafter say still more how true it is.

PYRGOPOLINICES
I can hardly refrain from bidding you to stay.

PALAESTRIO
Take you care how you do that. They may say that you are a liar and not truthful, that you have no honor; they may say that no one of your slaves is trustworthy except my-self. If, indeed, I thought you could do it with honor, I should advise you. But it cannot be; take care how you do so.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Be off; I'll be content then, whatever happens.

PALAESTRIO
Then, fare you well.

PYRGOPOLINICES
‘Twere better you should go with a good heart.

PALAESTRIO
Still, once more, farewell. *Exit.*

PYRGOPOLINICES
Before this affair, I had always thought that he was a most rascally servant; still, I find that he is faithful to me. When I consider with myself, I have done unwisely in parting with him. I’ll go hence at once now to my love here: the door, too, I perceive, makes a noise there.

Enter a BOY from the house of PERIPLECOMENUS.

A BOY.
to some one within . Don’t you be advising me; I remember my duty; this moment I’ll find him. Wherever on earth he may chance to be, I’ll search him out; I’ll not be sparing of my pains.

PYRGOPOLINICES
’Tis I he is looking for, I’ll go and meet this boy.

A BOY.
O, I’m looking for you; save you, dearest sir, one loaded by opportunity with her gifts, and whom before all others two Divinities do favour.

PYRGOPOLINICES
What two?

A BOY.
Mars and Venus.

PYRGOPOLINICES

A sprightly boy.

A BOY.
She entreats that you will go in; she wishes — she longs for you, and while expecting you, she's dying for you. Do succour one in love. Why do you stay? Why don't you go in?

PYRGOPOLINICES
Well, I'll go. *Enters the house of PERIPLECOMENUS.*

A BOY.
There has he entangled himself at once in the toils. The snare is prepared: the old gentleman is standing at his post to attack the letcher, who is so boastful of his good looks; who thinks that, whatever woman sees him, all are in love with him; whom all, both men and women, detest. Now I will on to the uproar; I hear a tumult within.

ACT V.

Enter PERIPLECOMENUS from his house, with CARIO and other SERVANTS, dragging PYRGOPOLINICES.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Bring that fellow along. If he doesn't follow, drag him, lifted on high, out of doors. Make him to be between heaven and earth; cut him in pieces. *They beat him.*

PYRGOPOLINICES
By my troth, I do entreat you, Periplecomenus.

PERIPLECOMENUS
By my troth, you do entreat in vain. Take care, Cario, that that knife of yours is very sharp.

CARIO
Why, it's already longing to rip up the stomach of this letcher. I'll make his entrails hang just as a bauble hangs from a baby's neck.

PYRGOPOLINICES
I'm a dead man.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Not yet; you say so too soon.

CARIO
Shall I have at this fellow now?

PERIPLECOMENUS
Aye, — but first let him be thrashed with cudgels.

CARIO
True, right lustily.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Why have you dared, you disgraceful fellow, to seduce another

man's wife?

PYRGOPOLINICES
So may the Gods bless me, she came to me of her own accord.

PERIPLECOMENUS
It's a lie. Lay on. *They are about to strike.*

PYRGOPOLINICES
Stay, while I tell ——

PERIPLECOMENUS
Why are you hesitating?

PYRGOPOLINICES
Will you not let me speak?

PERIPLECOMENUS
Speak, then.

PYRGOPOLINICES
I was entreated to come here.

PERIPLECOMENUS
How did you dare? There's for you, take that. *Strikes him.*

PYRGOPOLINICES
O! O! I've had enough. Prithee, now.

CARIO
Am I to begin cutting him up at once?

PERIPLECOMENUS
As soon as you like. Stretch the fellow out, and spread out his pinions in opposite ways.

PYRGOPOLINICES
By heavens, prithee, do hear my words before he cuts me.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Speak before you're made of no sex.

PYRGOPOLINICES
I supposed that she was a widow; and so her maid, who was her go-between, informed me.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Now take an oath that you won't injure any person for this affair, because you have been beaten here today, or shall be beaten hereafter, if we let you go safe hence, you dear little grandson of Venus.

PYRGOPOLINICES
I swear by Dione and Mars that I will hurt no one because I have been beaten here this day; and I think that it was rightfully done; and if I don't go hence further injured, I am rightly punished for the offence.

PERIPLECOMENUS
But what if you don't do so?

PYRGOPOLINICES
Then, may I always have my word not to be trusted

CARIO
Let him be beaten once more; after that I think he may be dismissed.

PYRGOPOLINICES
May the Gods ever bless you, since you so kindly come as my advocate.

CARIO
Give us a golden mina, then.

PYRGOPOLINICES
For what reason?

CARIO
That we may now let you go hence unmaimed, you little grandson of Venus; otherwise you shall not escape from here; don't you deceive yourself.

PYRGOPOLINICES
It shall be given you.

CARIO
You're very wise. As for your tunic, and your scarf, and sword, don't at all hope for them; you shan't have them.

A SERVANT.
Shall I beat him again, or do you let him go?

PYRGOPOLINICES
I'm tamed by your cudgels. I do entreat you.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Loose him.

PYRGOPOLINICES
I return you thanks.

PERIPLECOMENUS
If I ever catch you here again, I'll insert a disqualifying clause.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Well: I make no objection.

PERIPLECOMENUS
Let's go in, Cario. *PERIPLECOMENUS, CARIO, and SERVANTS go into his house. Enter SCLEDRUS and other SERVANTS of the CAPTAIN.*

PYRGOPOLINICES
Here are some of my servants, I see. Tell me, is Philocomasium off yet.

SCELEDRUS
Aye, some time since.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Ah me!

SCELEDRUS
You would say that still more if you were to know what I know, for that fellow who had the wool before his eye was no sailor.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Who was he, then?

SCELEDRUS
A lover of Philocomasium's.

PYRGOPOLINICES
How do you know?

SCELEDRUS
I do know: for after they had got out of the city gate, they didn't wait a moment before falling to kissing and embracing each other at once.

PYRGOPOLINICES
O wretched fool that I am! I see that I have been gulled. That scoundrel of a fellow, Palaestrio, it was he that contrived this plot against me.

SCELEDRUS
I think it was properly done. If it were so done to other letchers, there would be fewer letchers here; they would stand more in awe, and give their attention less to these pursuits.

PYRGOPOLINICES
Let's go into my house.

AN ACTOR
to the AUDIENCE . Give us your applause.

MOSTELLARIA

Translated by Henry Thomas Riley

Mostellaria, which has been translated as ‘The Haunted House’, is set in Athens, on a street in front of the houses of Theopropides and Simo. The narrative concerns a young man called Philolaches, who enjoys a carousing lifestyle, while his father is away on business. He has also borrowed a lot of money to buy the freedom of the slave-girl he loves. One day he is having a house party with many friends, when his slave Tranio interrupts the merry-making to announce that Philolaches’ father has returned unexpectedly and will arrive from the harbour at any moment. Amid the general panic, Tranio has an idea. He hustles Philolaches and his friends into the house and locks the door; when his father arrives, Tranio greets him respectfully but pretends that it is dangerous to enter the house as it is haunted…

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THE SUBJECT.

WHILE Theuropides is absent from home on business, his son Philolaches leads a dissolute life at home with his friend Callidamates and his own servant Tranio While they are in the midst of their carousals, the father of Philolaches unexpectedly arrives at Athens. Their first impulse is to leave the house immediately, but, Callidamates being in a state of helpless intoxication, they are prevented from so doing. In this dilemma, Tranio undertakes to rescue them. He requests them to remain perfectly quiet in the house, and not to stir out of it. The house is then shut up, and he sallies forth to meet Theuropides. He pretends to him that the house has been shut up for some months past, in consequence of its being haunted. In the midst of the conversation, he is accosted by a Banker, who duns him for the interest of some money which Philolaches has borrowed of him for the purpose of procuring the freedom of Philematium, his mistress. Theuropides enquires what the money was borrowed for, on which Tranio says that Philolaches has purchased a house with it. On Theuropides making further enquiries, Tranio says that he has bought the house in which Simo is living. On this, Theuropides wishes to examine this new purchase, and sends Tranio to request Simo to allow him to do so, if not inconvenient. Tranio obtains the permission, Simo being ignorant of the object, and they go over the house, Theuropides being much pleased with his son's bargain. Tranio is then sent by Theuropides into the country to fetch Philolaches thence, he having pretended that he is there. Shortly after, a servant of Callidamates comes to the house that is shut up to fetch his master home. Theuropides questions him, and then finds out the deception that has been practised upon him; and on receiving further information from Simo, who declares that he has not sold his own house, he resolves to punish Tranio. The latter, on finding this to be the case, runs to an altar for refuge. Callidamates, who is now sober, and has got out of the house by the back-gate, now makes his appearance, and, at his earnest intercession, pardon is granted by Theuropides to Philolaches and Tranio.

THE ACROSTIC ARGUMENT.

[Supposed to have been written by Priscian the Grammarian.]

PHILOLACHES has given liberty to (Manumisit) his mistress who has been bought by him, and he consumes all (Omnem) his substance in the absence of his father. When he returns, Tranio deceives the old man (Senem); he says that frightful (Terrifica) apparitions have been seen in the house, and (Et) that at once they had removed from it. A Usurer, greedy of gain (Lucripeta), comes up in the meantime, asking for the interest of some money, and again the old man is made sport of (Lusus); for the servant says that a deposit for a house which has been bought has been taken up (Acceptum) on loan. The old man enquires (Requirit) which it is; he says that of the neighbour next door. He then looks over (Inspectat) it. Afterwards he is vexed that he has been laughed at; still by (Ab) the companion of his son he is finally appeased.

ACT I.

Enter, from the house of THEUROPIDES, GRUMIO, pushing out TRANIO.

GRUMIO
Get out of the kitchen, will you; out of it, you whip-scoundrel, who are giving me your cavilling talk amid the platters; march out of the house, you ruin of your master. Upon my faith, if I only live, I'll be soundly revenged upon you in the country. Get out, I say, you steam of the kitchen. Why are you skulking thus?

TRANIO
Why the plague are you making this noise here before the house? Do you fancy yourself to be in the country? Get out of the house; be off into the country. Go and hang yourself. Get away from the door. *Striking him.* There now, was it that you wanted?

>

GRUMIO
running away . I'm undone! Why are you beating me? TRA. Because you want it.

GRUMIO
I must endure it. Only let the old gentleman return home; only let him come safe home, whom you are devouring in his absence.

TRANIO
You don't say what's either likely or true, you blockhead, as to any one devouring a person in his absence.

GRUMIO
Indeed, you town wit, you minion of the mob, do you throw the country in my teeth? Really, Tranio, I do believe that you feel sure that before long you'll be handed over to the mill. Within a short period, i' faith, Tranio, you'll full soon be adding to the iron-bound

race in the country. While you choose to, and have the opportunity, drink on, squander his property, corrupt my master's son, a most worthy young man, drink night and day, live like Greeks, make purchase of mistresses, give them their freedom, feed parasites, feast yourselves sumptuously. Was it thus that the old gentleman enjoined you when he went hence abroad? Is it after this fashion that he will find his property well husbanded? Do you suppose that this is the duty of a good servant, to be ruining both the estate and the son of his master? For I do consider him as ruined, when he devotes himself to these goings on. A person, with whom not one of all the young men of Attica was before deemed equally frugal or more steady, the same is now carrying off the palm in the opposite direction. Through your management and your tutoring has that been done.

TRANIO
What the plague business have you with me or with what I do? Prithee, haven't you got your cattle in the country for you to look to? I choose to drink, to intrigue, to keep my wenches; this I do at the peril of my own back, and not of yours

GRUMIO
Then with what assurance he does talk! *Turning away in disgust.* Faugh!

TRANIO
But may Jupiter and all the Deities confound you; you stink of garlick, you filth unmistakeable, you clod, you he-goat, you pig-sty, you mixture of dog and she-goat.

GRUMIO
What would you have to be done? It isn't all that can smell of foreign perfumes, if you smell of them; or that can take their places at table above their master, or live on such exquisite dainties as you live upon. Do you keep to yourself those turtle-doves, that fish, and poultry; let me enjoy my lot upon garlick diet. You are fortunate; I unlucky. It must be endured. Let my good fortune be awaiting me, your bad yourself.

TRANIO
You seem, Grumio, as though you envied me, because I enjoy myself and you are wretched. It is quite my due. It's proper for me to make love, and for you to feed the cattle; for me to fare handsomely, you in a miserable way.

GRUMIO
O riddle for the executioner, as I guess it will turn out; they'll be so pinking you with goads, as you carry your gibbet along the streets one day, as soon as ever the old gentleman returns here.

TRANIO
How do you know whether that mayn't happen to yourself sooner than to me?

GRUMIO
Because I have never deserved it; you have deserved it, and you now deserve it.

TRANIO
Do cut short the trouble of your talking, unless you wish a heavy mischance to befall you.

GRUMIO
Are you going to give me the tares for me to take for the cattle? If you are not, give me the money. Go on, still persist in the way in which you've commenced! Drink, live like Greeks, eat, stuff yourselves, slaughter your fatlings!

TRANIO
Hold your tongue, and be off into the country; I intend to go to the Piræus to get me some fish for the evening. To-morrow I'll make some one bring you the tares to the farm. What's the matter? Why now are you staring at me, gallows-bird?

GRUMIO
I' faith, I've an idea that will be your own title before long.

TRANIO
So long as it is as it is, in the meantime I'll put up with that "before long."

GRUMIO
That's the way; and understand this one thing, that that which is disagreable comes much more speedily than that which you wish for.

TRANIO
Don't you be annoying; now then, away with you into the country, and betake yourself off. Don't you deceive yourself, henceforth you shan't be causing me any impediment. *(Exit.)*

GRUMIO
to himself . Is he really gone? Not to care one straw for what I've said! O immortal Gods, I do implore your aid, do cause this old gentleman of ours, who has now been three years absent from here, to return hither as soon as possible, before everything is gone, both house and land. Unless he does return here, remnants to last for a few months only are left. Now I'll be off to the country; but look! I see my master's son, one who has been corrupted from having been a most excellent young man. *(Exit.)*

Enter PHILOLACHES, from the house of THEUROPIDES.

PHILOLACHES
to himself . I've often thought and long reflected on it, and in my breast have held many a debate, and in my heart (if any heart I have) have revolved this matter, and long discussed it, to what thing I'm to consider man as like, and what form he has when he is born? I've now discovered this likeness. I think a man is like unto a new house when he is born. I'll give my proofs of this fact. *To the AUDIENCE.* And does not this seem to you like the truth? But so I'll manage that you shall think it is so. Beyond a doubt I'll convince you that it is true what I say. And this yourselves, I'm sure, when you have heard my words, will say is no otherwise than just as I now affirm that it is. Listen while I repeat my proofs of this fact; I want you to be equally

knowing with myself upon this matter. As soon as ever a house is built up, nicely polished off, carefully erected, and according to rule, people praise the architect and approve of the house, they take from it each one a model for himself. Each one has something similar, quite at his own expense; they do not spare their pains. But when a worthless, lazy, dirty, negligent fellow betakes himself thither with an idle family, then is it imputed as a fault to the house, while a good house is being kept in bad repair. And this is often the case; a storm comes on and breaks the tiles and gutters; then a careless owner takes no heed to put up others. A shower comes on and streams down the walls; the rafters admit the rain; the weather rots the labours of the builder; then the utility of the house becomes diminished; and yet this is not the fault of the builder. But a great part of mankind have contracted this habit of delay; if anything can be repaired by means of money, they are always still putting it off, and don't * * * do it until the walls come tumbling down; then the whole house has to be built anew. These instances from buildings I've mentioned; and now I wish to inform you how you are to suppose that men are like houses. In the first place then, the parents are the builders-up of the children, and lay the foundation for the children; they raise them up, they carefully train them to strength, and that they may be good both for service and for view before the public. They spare not either their own pains or their cost, nor do they deem expense in that to be an expense. They refine them, teach them literature, the ordinances, the laws; at their own cost and labour they struggle, that others may wish for their own children to be like to them. When they repair to the army, they then find them some relation of theirs as a protector. At that moment they pass out of the builder's hands. One year's pay has now been earned; at that period, then, a sample is on view how the building will turn out. But I was always discreet and virtuous, just as long as I was under the management of the builder. After I had left him to follow the bent of my own inclinations, at once I entirely spoiled the labours of the builders. Idleness came on; that was my storm; on its arrival, upon me it brought down hail and showers, which overthrew my modesty and the bounds of virtue, and untiled them for me in an instant. After that I was neglectful to cover in again; at once passion like a torrent entered my heart; it flowed down

even unto my breast, and soaked through my heart. Now both property, credit, fair fame, virtue, and honor have forsaken me; by usage have I become much worse, and, i' faith (so rotten are these rafters of mine with moisture), I do not seem to myself to be able possibly to patch up my house to prevent it from falling down totally once for all, from perishing from the foundation, and from no one being able to assist me. My heart pains me, when I reflect how I now am and how I once was, than whom in youthful age not one there was more active in the arts of exercise, with the quoit, the javelin, the ball, racing, arms, and horses. I then lived a joyous life; in frugality and hardihood I was an example to others; all, even the most deserving, took a lesson from me for themselves. Now that I'm become worthless, to that, indeed, have I hastened through the bent of my inclinations. *He stands apart.*

Enter PHILEMATITUM and SCAPHA, with all the requisites for a toilet.

PHILEMATIUM
On my word, for this long time I've not bathed in cold water with more delight than just now; nor do I think that I ever was, my dear Scapha, more thoroughly cleansed than now.

SCAPHA
May the upshot of everything be unto you like a plenteous year's harvest.

PHILEMATIUM
What has this harvest got to do with my bathing?

SCAPHA
Not a bit more than your bathing has to do with the harvest.

PHILOLACHES
apart . O beauteous Venus, this is that storm of mine which stripped off all the modesty with which I was roofed; through which Desire and Cupid poured their shower into my breast; and never since have I been able to roof it in. Now are my walls soaking in my heart; this

building is utterly undone.

PHILEMATIUM
Do look, my Scapha, there's a dear, whether this dress quite becomes me. I wish to please Philolaches my protector, the apple of my eye.

SCAPHA
Nay but, you set yourself off to advantage with pleasing manners, inasmuch as you yourself are pleasing. The lover isn't in love with a woman's dress, but with that which stuffs out the dress.

PHILOLACHES
apart . So may the Gods bless me, Scapha is waggish; the hussy's quite knowing. How cleverly she understands all matters, the maxims of lovers too!

PHILEMATIUM
Well now?

SCAPHA
What is it?

PHILEMATIUM
Why look at me and examine, how this becomes me.

SCAPHA
Thanks to your good looks, it happens that whatever you put on becomes you.

PHILOLACHES
apart . Now then, for that expression, Scapha, I'll make you some present or other to-day, and I won't allow you to have praised her for nothing who is so pleasing to me.

PHILEMATIUM
I don't want you to flatter me.

SCAPHA

Really you are a very simple woman. Come now, would you rather be censured undeservedly, than be praised with truth? Upon my faith, for my own part, even though undeservedly, I'd much rather be praised than be found fault with with reason, or that other people should laugh at mny appearance.

PHILEMATIUM
I love the truth; I wish the truth to be told me; I detest a liar.

SCAPHA
So may you love me, and so may your Philolaches love you, how charming you are.

PHILOLACHES
apart . How say you, you hussy? In what words did you adjure? "So may I love her?" Why wasn't "So may she love me" added as well? I revoke the present. What I just now promised you is done for; you have lost the present.

SCAPHA
Troth, for my part I am surprised that you, a person so knowing, so clever, and so well educated, are not aware that you are acting foolishly.

PHILEMATIUM
Then give me your advice, I beg, if I have done wrong in anything.

SCAPHA
I' faith, you certainly do wrong, in setting your mind upon him alone, in fact, and humouring him in particular in this way and slighting other men. It's the part of a married woman, and not of courtesans, to be devoted to a single lover.

PHILOLACHES
apart . O Jupiter! Why, what pest is this that has befallen my house? May all the Gods and Goddesses destroy me in the worst of fashions, if I don't kill this old hag with thirst, and hunger, and cold.

PHILEMATIUM
I don't want you, Scapha, to be giving me bad advice.

SCAPHA
You are clearly a simpleton, in thinking that he'll for everlasting be your friend and well-wisher. I warn you of that; he'll forsake you by reason of age and satiety.

PHILEMATIUM
I hope not.

SCAPHA
Things which you don't hope happen more frequently than things which you do hope. In fine, if you cannot be persuaded by words to believe this to be the truth, judge of my words from facts; consider this instance, who I now am, and who I once was. No less than your are now, was I once beloved, and I devoted myself to one, who, faith, when with age this head changed its hue, forsook and deserted me. Depend on it, the same will happen to yourself.

PHILOLACHES
apart . I can scarcely withhold myself from flying at the eyes of this mischief-maker.

PHILEMATIUM
I am of opinion that I ought to keep myself alone devoted to him, since to myself alone has he given freedom for himself alone.

PHILOLACHES
apart . O ye immortal Gods! what a charming woman, and of a disposition how chaste! By heaven, 'tis excellently done, and I'm rejoiced at it, that it is for her sake I've got nothing left.

SCAPHA
On my word you really are silly.

PHILEMATIUM
For what reason?

SCAPHA
Because you care for this, whether he loves you.

PHILEMATIUM
Prithee, why should I not care for it?

SCAPHA
You now are free. You've now got what you wanted; if he didn't still love you, as much money as he gave for your liberty, he'd lose.

PHILOLACHES
apart . Heavens, I'm a dead man if I don't torture her to death after the most shocking fashion. That evil-persuading enticer to vice is corrupting this damsel.

PHILOLACHES
Scapha, I can never return him sufficient thanks for what he deserves of me; don't you be persuading me to esteem him less.

SCAPHA
But take care and reflect upon this one thing, if you devote yourself to him alone, while now you are at this youthful age, you'll be complaining to no purpose in your aged years.

PHILOLACHES
apart . I could wish myself this instant changed into a quinsy, that I might seize the throat of that old witch, and put an end to the wicked mischief-maker.

PHILEMATIUM
It befits me now to have the same grateful feelings since I obtained it, as formerly before I acquired it, when I used to lavish caresses upon him.

PHILOLACHES
apart . May the Gods do towards me what they please, if for that speech I don't make you free over again, and if I don't torture Scapha to death.

SCAPHA
If you are quite assured that you will have a provision to the end, and that this lover will be your own for life, I think that you ought to devote yourself to him alone, and assume the character of a wife.

PHILEMATIUM
Just as a person's character is, he's in the habit of finding means accordingly; if I keep a good character for myself I shall be rich enough.

PHILOLACHES
apart . By my troth, since selling there must be, my father shall be sold much sooner than, while I'm alive, I'll ever permit you to be in want or go a-begging.

SCAPHA
What's to become of the rest of those who are in love with you?

PHILEMATIUM
They'll love me the more when they see me displaying gratitude to one who has done me services.

PHILOLACHES
apart . I do wish that news were brought me now that my father's dead, that I might disinherit myself of my property, and that she might be my heir.

SCAPHA
This property of his will certainly soon be at an end; day and night there's eating and drinking, and no one displays thriftiness; 'tis downright cramming.

PHILOLACHES
apart . I' faith, I'm determined to make trial on yourself for the first to be thrifty; for you shall neither eat nor drink anything at my house for the next ten days.

PHILEMATIUM

If you choose to say anything good about him, you shall be at liberty to say it; if you speak otherwise than well, on my word you shall have a beating instantly.

PHILOLACHES
apart . Upon my faith, if I had paid sacrifice to supreme Jove with that money which I gave for her liberty, never could I have so well employed it. Do see, how, from her very heart's core, she loves me! Oh, I'm a fortunate man; I've liberated in her a patron to plead my cause for me.

SCAPHA
I see that, compared with Philolaches, you disregard all other men; now, that on his account I mayn't get a beating, I'll agree with you in preference, if you are quite satisfied that he will always prove a friend to you.

PHILEMATIUM
Give me the mirror, and the casket with my trinkets, directly, Scapha, that I may be quite dressed when Philolaches, my delight, comes here.

SCAPHA
A woman who neglects herself and her youthful age has occasion for a mirror; what need of a mirror have you, who yourself are in especial a mirror for a mirror.

PHILOLACHES
apart . For that expression, Scapha, that you mayn't have said anything so pretty in vain, I'll to-day give something for your savings — to you, my Philematium.

PHILEMATIUM
while SCAPHA is dressing her hair . Will you see that each hair is nicely arranged in its own place?

SCAPHA
When you yourself are so nice, do believe that your hair must be

nice.

PHILOLACHES
apart . Out upon it! what worse thing can possibly be spoken of than this woman? Now the jade's a flatterer, just now she was all contradictory.

PHILEMATIUM
Hand me the ceruse.

SCAPHA
Why, what need of ceruse have you?

PHILEMATIUM
To paint my cheeks with it.

SEA.
On the same principle, you would want to be making ivory white with ink.

PHILOLACHES
apart . Cleverly said that, about the ink and the ivory! Bravo! I applaud you, Scapha.

PHILEMATIUM
Well then, do you give me the rouge.

SCAPHA
I shan't give it. You really are a clever one. Do you wish to patch up a most clever piece with new daubing? It's not right that any paint should touch that person, neither ceruse, nor quince-ointment, nor any other wash. Take the mirror, then. *Hands her the glass.*

PHILOLACHES
apart. Ah wretched me! — she gave the glass a kiss. I could much wish for a stone, with which to break the head of that glass.

SCAPHA

Take the towel and wipe your hands.

PHILEMATIUM
Why so, prithee?

SCAPHA
As you've been holding the mirror, I'm afraid that your hands may smell of silver; lest Philolaches should suspect you've been receiving silver somewhere.

PHILOLACHES
apart . I don't think that I ever did see any one procuress more cunning. How cleverly and artfully did it occur to the jade's imagination about the mirror!

PHILEMATIUM
Do you think I ought to be perfumed with unguents as well?

SCAPHA
By no means do so.

PHILEMATIUM
For what reason?

SCAPHA
Because, i' faith, a woman smells best when she smells of nothing at all. For those old women who are in the habit of anointing themselves with unguents, vampt up creatures, old hags, and toothless, who hide the blemishes of the person with paint, when the sweat has blended itself with the unguents, forthwith they stink just like when a cook has poured together a variety of broths; what they smell of, you don't know, except this only, that you understand that badly they do smell.

PHILOLACHES
apart . How very cleverly she does understand everything! There's nothing more knowing than this knowing woman! *To the AUDIENCE.* This is the truth, and a very great portion, in fact, of

you know it, who have old women for wives at home who purchased you with their portions.

PHITE.
Come now, examine my golden trinkets and my mantle; does this quite become me, Scapha?

SCAPHA
It befits not me to concern myself about that.

PHILEMATIUM
Whom then, prithee?

SCAPHA
I'll tell you; Philolaches; so that he may not buy anything except that which he fancies will please you. For a lover buys the favours of a mistress for himself with gold and purple garments. What need is there for that which he doesn't want as his own, to be shown him still? Age is to be enveloped in purple; gold ornaments are unsuitable for a woman. A beautiful woman will be more beautiful naked than drest in purple. Besides, it's in vain she's well-drest if she's ill-conducted; ill-conduct soils fine ornaments worse than dirt. But if she's beauteous, she's sufficiently adorned.

PHILOLACHES
apart . Too long have I withheld my hand. *Coming forward.* What are you about here?

PHILEMATIUM
I'm decking myself out to please you.

PLILO.
You are dressed enough. *To SCAPHA.* Go you hence in-doors, and take away this finery. *SCAPHA goes into the house.* But, my delight, my Philematium, I have a mind to regale together with you.

PHILEMATIUM
And, i' faith, so I have with you; for what you have a mind to, the

same have I a mind to, my delight.

PHILOLACHES
Ha! at twenty mine that expression were cheap.

PHILEMATIUM
Give me ten, there's a dear; I wish to let you have that expression bought a bargain.

PHILOLACHES
You've already got ten minæ with you; or reckon up the account: thirty minæ I gave for your freedom ——

PHILEMATIUM
Why reproach me with that?

PHILOLACHES
What, I reproach you with it? Why, I had rather that I myself were reproached with it; no money whatever for this long time have I ever laid out equally well.

PHILEMATIUM
Surely, in loving you, I never could have better employed my pains.

PHILOLACHES
The account, then, of receipts and expenditure fully tallies between ourselves; you love me, I love you. Each thinks that it is so deservedly. Those who rejoice at this, may they ever rejoice at the continuance of their own happiness. Those who envy, let not any one henceforth be ever envious of their blessings.

PHILEMATIUM
pointing to a couch on the stage . Come, take your place, then. *At the door, to a SERVANT, who obeys.* Boy, bring some water for the hands; put a little table here. See where are the dice. Would you like some perfumes? *They recline on the couch.*

PHILOLACHES

What need is there? Along with myrrh I am reclining. But isn't this my friend who's coming hither with his mistress? 'Tis he; it's Callidamates; look, he's coming. Capital! my sweet one, see, our comrades are approaching; they're coming to share the spoil.

Enter CALLIDAMATES, at a distance, drunk, and DELPHIUIM, followed by a SERVANT.

CALLIDAMATES
to his SERVANT . I want you to come for me in good time to the house of Philolaches; listen you; well then! those are your orders. *Exit SERVANT.* For from the place where I was, thence did I betake myself off;> so confoundedly tired was I there. with the entertainment and the discourse. Now I'll go to Philolaches to have a bout there he'll receive us with jovial feelings and handsomely. Do I seem to you to be fairly drenched, my bubsy?

DELPHIUM
You ought always to live pursuing this course of life.

CALLIDAMATES
Should you like, then, for me to hug you, and you me?

DELPHIUM
If you've a mind to do so, of course.

CALLIDAMATES
You are a charming one. *He stumbles.* Do hold me up, there's a dear.

DELPHIUM
holding him by the arm . Take care you don't fall. Stand up.

CALLIDAMATES
O! you are the apple of my eye. I'm your fosterling, my honey. *He stumbles.*

DELPHIUM
still holding him up . Only do take care that you don't recline in the

street, before we get to a place where a couch is ready laid.

CALLIDAMATES
Do let me fall.

DELPHIUM
Well, I'll let you. *Lets go.*

CALLIDAMATES
dragging her as he falls . But that as well which I've got hold of in my hand.

DELPHIUM
If you fall, you shan't fall without me falling with you. Then some one shall pick us both up as we lie *Aside.* The man's quite drenched.

CALLIDAMATES
overhearing . Do you say that I am drenched, my bubsy?

DELPHIUM
Give me your hand; I really do not want * * you hurt.

CALLIDAMATES
giving his hand . There now, take it.

DELPHIUM
Come, move on with me.

CALLIDAMATES
Where am I going, do you know?

DELPHIUM
I know.

CALLIDAMATES
It has just come into my head: why, of course I'm going home for a booze.

DELPHIUM

Why yes, really now I do remember that.

PHILOLACHES
Won't you let me go to find them, my life? Of all persons I wish well to him especially. I'll return just now. *Goes forward towards the door.*

PHILEMATIUM
That "just now" is a long time to me.

CALLIDAMATES
going to the door and knocking . Is there any person here?

PHILOLACHES
'Tis he.

CALLIDAMATES
turning round . Bravo! Philolaches, good day to you, most friendly to me of all men.

PHILOLACHES
May the Gods bless you. *Pointing to a couch.* Take your place, Callidamates. *He takes his place.* Whence are you betaking yourself?

CALLIDAMATES
Whence a drunken man does.

PHILOLACHES
Well said. But, my Delphium, do take your place, there's a dear. *She takes her place on a couch.*

CALLIDAMATES
Give her something to drink. I shall go to sleep directly. *Nods and goes to sleep.*

PHILOLACHES
He doesn't do anything wonderful or strange. What shall I do with him then, my dear?

DELPHIUM
Let him alone just as he is.

PHILOLACHES
Come, you boy. Meanwhile, speedily pass the goblet round,
beginning with Delphium.

ACT II.

Enter TRANIO, at a distance.

TRANIO
to himself . Supreme Jove, with all his might and resources, is seeking for me and Philolaches, my master's son, to be undone. Our hopes are destroyed; nowhere is there any hold for courage; not even Salvation now could save us if she wished. Such an immense mountain of woe have I just now seen at the harbour: my master has arrived from abroad; Tranio is undone! *To the. AUDIENCE.* Is there any person who'd like to make gain of a little money, who could this day endure to take my place in being tortured? Where are those fellows hardened to a flogging, the wearers- out of iron chains, or those, who, for the consideration of three didrachms, would get beneath besieging towers, where some are in the way of having their bodies pierced with fifteen spears? I'll give a talent to that man who shall be the first to run to the cross for me; but on condition that twice his feet, twice his arms are fastened there. When that shall have been done, then ask the money down of me. But am I not a wretched fellow, not at full speed to be running home?

PHILOLACHES
Here come the provisions; see, here's Tranio; he's come back from the harbour.

TRANIO
running . Philolaches!

PHILOLACHES
What's the matter?

TRANIO
Both I and you ——

PHILOLACHES
What about "Both I and you?"

TRANIO
Are undone!

PHILOLACHES
Why so?

TRANIO
Your father's here.

PHILOLACHES
What is it I hear of you?

TRANIO
We are finished up. Your father's come, I say.

PHILOLACHES
starting up. Where is he, I do entreat you?

TRANIO
He's coming.

PHILOLACHES
Coming? Who says so? Who has seen him?

TRANIO
I saw him myself, I tell you.

PHILOLACHES
Woe unto me! what am I about?

TRANIO
Why the plague now do you ask me what you are about? Taking your place at table, of course.

PHILOLACHES
Did you see him?

TRANIO
I my own self, I tell you.

PHILOLACHES
For certain?

TRANIO
For certain, I tell you.

PHILOLACHES
I'm undone, if you are telling the truth.

TRANIO
What good could it be to me if I told a lie?

PHILOLACHES
What shall I do now?

TRANIO
pointing to the table and couches . Order all these things to be removed from here. *Pointing.* Who's that asleep there?

PHILOLACHES
Callidamates.

TRANIO
Arouse him, Delphium.

DELPHIUM
bawling out in his ear . Callidamates! Callidamates! awake! CALL. *raising himself a little* . I am awake; give me something to drink.

DELPHIUM
Awake; the father of Philolaches has arrived from abroad.

CALLIDAMATES
I hope his father's well.

PHILOLACHES
He is well indeed; but I am utterly undone.

CALLIDAMATES

You, utterly undone? How can that be?

PHILOLACHES
By heavens! do get up, I beg of you; my father has arrived.

CALLIDAMATES
Your father has come? Bid him go back again. What business had he to come back here so soon?

PHILOLACHES
What am I to do? My father will, just now, be coming and unfortunately finding me amid drunken carousals, and the house full of revellers and women. It's a shocking bad job, to be digging a well at the last moment, just when thirst has gained possession of your throat; just as I, on the arrival of my father, wretch that I am, am now enquiring what I am to do.

TRANIO
pointing at CALLIDAMATES . Why look, he has laid down his head and gone to sleep. Do arouse him.

PHILOLACHES
shaking him . Will you awake now? My father, I tell you, will be here this instant.

CALLIDAMATES
How say you? Your father? Give me my shoes, that I may take up arms. On my word, I'll kill your father this instant.

PHILOLACHES
seizing hold of him . You're spoiling the whole business; do hold your tongue. *To DELPHIUM.* Prithee, do carry him off in your arms into the house.

CALLIDAMATES
To DELPHIUM, who is lifting him up . Upon my faith, I'll be making an utensil of you just now, if you don't find me one. *He is led off into the house.*

PHILOLACHES
I'm undone!

TRANIO
Be of good courage; I'll cleverly find a remedy for this alarm.

PHILOLACHES
I'm utterly ruined!

TRANIO
Do hold your tongue; I'll think of something by means of which to alleviate this for you. Are you satisfied, if on his arrival I shall so manage your father, not only that he shall not enter, but even that he shall run away to a distance from the house? Do you only be off from here in-doors, and remove these things from here with all haste.

PHILOLACHES
Where am I to be?

TRANIO
Where you especially desire: with her *pointing to PHILEMATIUM* ; with this girl, too, you'll be. *Pointing to DELPHEIUM.*

DELPHIUM
How then? Are we to go away from here?

TRANIO
Not far from here, Delphium. For carouse away in the house not a bit the less on account of this.

PHILOLACHES
Ah me! I'm in a sweat with fear as to how these fine words are to end!

TRANIO
Can you not be tranquil in your mind, and do as I bid you?

PHILOLACHES

I can be.

TRANIO
In the first place of all, Philematium, do you go in-doors; and you, Delphium.

DELPHIUM
We'll both be obedient to you. *They go into the house.*

TRANIO
May Jupiter grant it so! Now then, do you give attention as to what I'd have attended to. In the first place, then, before anything, cause the house to be shut up at once. Take care and don't let any one whisper a word indoors.

PHILOLACHES
Care shall be taken.

TRANIO
Just as though no living being were dwelling within the house.

PHILOLACHES
Very well.

TRANIO
And let no one answer, when the old gentleman knocks at the door.

PHILOLACHES
Anything else?

TRANIO
Order the master-key of the house to be brought me at once from within; this house I'll lock here on the outside.

PHILOLACHES
To your charge I commit myself, Tranio, and my hopes. *He goes into the house, and the things are removed from the stage.*

TRANIO
to himself . It matters not a feather whether a patron or a dependant is the nearest at hand for that man who has got no courage in his breast. For to every man, whether very good or very bad, even at a moment's notice, it is easy to act with craft; but this must be looked to, this is the duty of a prudent man, that what has been planned and done in craftiness, may all come about smoothly and without mishap; so that he may not have to put up with anything by reason of which he might be loth to live; just as I shall manage, that, from the confusion which we shall here create, all shall really go on smoothly and tranquilly, and not produce us any inconvenience in the results. *Enter a BOY, from the house.* But, why have you come out? I'm undone! (The

A BOY.
shows him the key.) O very well, you've obeyed my orders most opportunely.

A BOY.
He bade me most earnestly to entreat you some way or other to scare away his father, that he may not enter the house.

TRANIO
Even more, tell him this, that I'll cause that he shan't venture even to look at the house, and to take to flight, covering up his head with the greatest alarm. Give me the key *taking it* , and be off in-doors, and shut to the door, and I'll lock it on this side. *The BOY goes into the house, and TRANIO locks the door.* Bid him now come forthwith. For the old gentleman here while still alive this day will I institute games in his presence, such as I fancy there will never be for him when he's dead. *Moving away.* I'll go away from the door to this spot; hence, I'll look out afar in which direction to lay the burden on the old fellow on his arrival. *Exit to a little distance.*

Enter THEUROPIDES, followed by ATTENDANTS.

THEUROPIDES

to himself . Neptune, I do return extreme thanks to thee that thou hast just dismissed me from thee, though scarce alive. But if, from this time forward, thou shalt only know that I have stirred a foot upon the main, there is no reason why, that instant, thou shouldst not do with me that which thou hast now wished to do. Away with you, away with you from me henceforth for ever after to-day; what I was to entrust to thee, all of it have I now entrusted. *overhearing him.*

TRANIO
apart . By my troth, Neptune, you've been much to blame, to have lost this opportunity so fair.

THEUROPIDES
After three years, I've arrived home from Ægypt. I shall come a welcome guest to my household, I suppose.

TRANIO
apart . Upon my faith, he might have come a much more welcome one, who had brought the tidings you were dead.

THEUROPIDES
looking at the door . But what means this? Is the door shut in the daytime? I'll knock. *Knocks at the door.* Hallo, there! is any one going to open this door for me?

TRANIO
coming forward, and speakcing aloud . What person is it that has come so near to our house?

THEUROPIDES
Surely this is my servant Tranio.

TRANIO
O Theuropides, my master, welcome; I'm glad that you've arrived in safety.

HAVE
you been well all along?

THEUROPIDES
All along, as you see.

TRANIO
That's very good.

THEUROPIDES
What about yourselves? Are you all mad?

TRANIO
Why so?

THEUROPIDES
For this reason; because you are walking about outside; not a born person is keeping watch in the house, either to open or to give an answer. With kicking with my feet I've almost broken in the pannels?

TRANIO
How now? Have you been touching this house?

THEUROPIDES
Why shouldn't I touch it? Why, with kicking it, I tell you, I've almost broken down the door.

TRANIO
What, you touched it?

THEUROPIDES
I touched it, I tell you, and knocked at it.

TRANIO
Out upon you!

THEUROPIDES
Why so?

TRANIO

By heavens! 'twas ill done.

THEUROPIDES
What is the matter?

TRANIO
It cannot be expressed, how shocking and dreadful a mischief you've been guilty of.

THEUROPIDES
How so?

TRANIO
Take to flight, I beseech you, and get away from the house. Fly in this direction, fly closer to me. *He runs to wards TRANIO.* What, did you touch the door?

THEUROPIDES
How could I knock, if I didn't touch it?

TRANIO
By all that's holy, you've been the death ——

THEUROPIDES
Of what person?

TRANIO
Of all your family.

THEUROPIDES
May the Gods and Goddesses confound you with that omen.

TRANIO
I'm afraid that you can't make satisfaction for yourself and them.

THEUROPIDES
For what reason, or what new affair is this that you thus suddenly bring me news of?

TRANIO
And *whispering* hark you, prithee, do bid those people to move away from here. *Pointing to the ATTENDANTS of THEUROPIDES.*

THEUROPIDES
to the ATTENDANTS . Move away from here.

TRANIO
Don't you touch the house. Touch you the ground as well. *(Exeunt the ATTENDANTS.)*

THEUROPIDES
I' faith, prithee, do speak out now.

TRANIO
Because it is now seven months that not a person has set foot within this house, and since we once for all left it.

THEE.
Tell me, why so?

TRANIO
Just look around, whether there's any person to overhear our discourse.

THEUROPIDES
looking around . All's quite safe.

TRANIO
Look around once more.

THEUROPIDES
looking around . There's nobody; now then, speak out. TRA. *in a loud whisper* . The house has been guilty of a capital offence.

THEUROPIDES
I don't understand you.

TRANIO
A crime, I tell you, has been committed there, a long while ago, one of olden time and ancient date.

THEUROPIDES
Of ancient date?

TRANIO
'Tis but recently, in fact, that we've discovered this deed.

THEUROPIDES
What is this crime, or who committed it? Tell me.

TRANIO
A host slew his guest, seized with his hand; he, I fancy, who sold you the house.

THEUROPIDES
Slew him?

TRANIO
And robbed this guest of his gold, and buried this guest there in the house, on the spot.

THEUROPIDES
For what reason do you suspect that this took place?

TRANIO
I'll tell you; listen. One day, when your son had dined away from home, after he returned home from dining; we all went to bed, and fell asleep. By accident, I had forgotten to put out my lamp; and he, all of a sudden, called out aloud ——

THEUROPIDES
What person? My son?

TRANIO
Hist! hold your peace: just listen. He said that a dead man came to

him in his sleep ——

THEUROPIDES
In his dreams, then, you mean?

TRANIO
Just so. But only listen. He said that he had met with his death by these means ——

THEUROPIDES
What, in his sleep?

TRANIO
It would have been surprising if he had told him awake, who had been murdered sixty years ago. On some occasions you are absurdly simple. But look, what he said: “I am the guest of Diapontius, from beyond the seas; here do I dwell; this has been assigned me as my abode; for Orcus would not receive me in Acheron, because prematurely I lost my life. Through confiding was I deceived: my entertainer slew me here, and that villain secretly laid me in the ground without funereal rites, in this house, on the spot, for the sake of gold. Now do you depart from here; this house is accursed, this dwelling is defiled.” The wonders that here take place, hardly in a year could I recount them. Hush, hush! *He starts.*

THEUROPIDES
Troth now, what has happened, prithee?

TRANIO
The door made a noise. Was it he that was knocking?

THEUROPIDES
turning pale . I have not one drop of blood! Dead men are come to fetch me to Acheron, while alive!

TRANIO
aside . I’m undone! those people there will mar my plot. *A noise is heard from within.* How much I dread, lest he should catch me in the

fact.

THEUROPIDES
What are you talking about to yourself? *Goes near the door.*

TRANIO
Do get away from the door. By heavens, fly, I do beseech you.

THEUROPIDES
Fly where? Fly yourself, as well.

TRANIO
I am not afraid: I am at peace with the dead.

A VOICE
from within . Hallo! Tranio.

TRANIO
in a low voice, near the door . You won't be calling me, if you are wise. *Aloud, as if speaking to the APPARITION.* 'Tis not I that's guilty; I did not knock at the door.

THEUROPIDES
Pray, what is it that's wrong? What matter is agitating you, Tranio? To whom are you saying these things?

TRANIO
Prithee, was it you that called me? So may the Gods bless me, I fancied it was this dead man expostulating because you had knocked at the door. But are you still standing there, and not doing what I advise you?

THEUROPIDES
What am I to do?

TRANIO
Take care not to look back. Fly; cover up your head!

THEUROPIDES
Why don't you fly?

TRANIO
I am at peace with the dead.

THEUROPIDES
I recollect. Why then were you so dreadfully alarmed just now?

TRANIO
Have no care for me, I tell you; I'll see to myself. You, as you have begun to do, fly as quick as ever you can; Hercules, too, you will invoke.

THEUROPIDES
Hercules, I do invoke thee! *Runs off.*

TRANIO
to himself. And I, as well, old fellow, that; this day he'll send some heavy mishap upon you. O ye immortal Gods, I do implore your aid. Plague on it! what a mess I have got into to-day. *(Exit.)*

ACT III.

Enter a BANKER, at the end of the stage.

A BANKER.
to himself . I never knew any year worse for money upon interest, than this year has turned out to me. From morning even until night, I spend my time in the Forum; I cannot lend out a coin of silver to any one. *Enter TRANIO.*

TRANIO
apart . Now, faith, I am clearly undone in an everlasting way! The Banker's here who found the money with which his mistress was bought. The matter's all out, unless I meet him a bit beforehand, so that the old man may not at present come to know of this. I'll go meet him. But *seeing THEUROPIDES* I wonder why he has so soon betaken himself homeward again. I'm afraid that he has heard something about this affair. I'll meet him, and accost him. But how dreadfully frightened I am! Nothing is more wretched than the mind of a man with a guilty conscience, such as possesses myself. But however this matter turns out, I'll proceed to perplex it still further: so does this affair require. *THEUROPIDES.*

TRANIO
accosting him . Whence come you?

THEUROPIDES
I met that person from whom I bought this house.

TRANIO
Did you tell him anything about that which I was telling you?

THEUROPIDES
I' faith, I certainly told him everything.

TRANIO
aside . Woe to unfortunate me! I'm afraid that my schemes are

everlastingly undone!

THEUROPIDES
What is it you are saying to yourself?

TRANIO
Why nothing. But tell me, prithee, did you really tell him?

THEUROPIDES
I told him everything in its order, I tell you.

TRANIO
Does he, then, confess about the guest?

THEUROPIDES
Why no; he utterly denies it.

TRANIO
Does he deny it?

THEUROPIDES
Do you ask me again? I should tell you if he had confessed it. What now are you of opinion ought to be done?

TRANIO
What is my opinion? By my troth, I beg of you, appoint an arbitrator together with him; but take you care that you appoint one who will believe me; you'll overcome him as easily as a fox eats a pear.

A BANKER.
to himself . But see, here's Tranio, the servant of Philolaches, people who pay me neither interest nor principal on my money. *Goes towards TRANIO, who steps forward to meet him.*

THEUROPIDES
to TRANIO . Whither are you betaking yourself?

TRANIO

I'm going no whither. *Aside.* For sure, I am a wretch, a rascal, one born with all the Gods my foes! He'll now be accosting me in the old man's presence. Assuredly, I am a wretched man; in such a fashion both this way and that do they find business for me. But I'll make haste and accost him. *Moves towards the BANKER.*

A BANKER.
apart . He's coming towards me. I'm all right I've some hopes of my money; he's smiling.

TRANIO
to himself . The fellow's deceived. *To the BANKER.* I heartily bid you hail, my friend Saturides.

A BANKER.
And hail to you. What about the money?

TRANIO
Be off with you, will you, you brute. Directly you come, you commence the attack against me.

A BANKER.
apart . This fellow's empty-handed.

TRANIO
overhearing him . This fellow's surely a conjurer.

A BANKER.
But why don't you put an end to this trifling?

TRANIO
Tell me, then, what it is you want.

A BANKER.
Where is Philolaches?

TRANIO
You never could have met me more opportunely than you have met

me.

A BANKER.
How's that?

TRANIO
taking him aside . Step this way.

A BANKER.
aloud . Why isn't the money repaid me?

TRANIO
I know that you have a good voice; don't bawl out so loud.

A BANKER.
aloud . I' faith, I certainly shall bawl out.

TRANIO
O do humour me now.

A BANKER.
What do you want me to humour you in?

TRANIO
Prithee, be off hence home.

A BANKER.
Be off?

TRANIO
Return here about mid-day.

A BANKER.
Will the interest be paid then?

TRANIO
It will be paid. Be off.

A BANKER.

Why should I run to and fro here, or use or waste my pains? What if I remain here until mid-day in preference?

TRANIO
Why no; be off home. On my word, I'm telling the truth. Only do be off.

A BANKER.
aloud . Then do you pay me my interest. Why do you trifle with me this way?

TRANIO
Bravo! faith. Really now, do be off; do attend to me.

A BANKER.
aloud . I' faith, I'll call him now by name.

TRANIO
Bravo! stoutly done! Really you are quite rich now when you bawl out.

A BANKER.
aloud . I'm asking for my own. In this way you've been disappointing me for these many days past. If I'm troublesome, give me back the money; I'll go away then. That expression puts an end to all replies.

TRANIO
pretending to offer it him . Then, take the principal.

A BANKER.
aloud . Why no, the interest; I want that first.

TRANIO
What? Have you, you fellow most foul of all fellows, come here to burst yourself? Do what lies in your power. He's not going to pay you; he doesn't owe it.

A BANKER.
Not owe it?

TRANIO
Not a tittle, indeed, can you get from here. Would you prefer for him to go abroad, and leave the city in exile, driven hence for your sake? Why then, in preference let him pay the principal.

A BANKER.
But I don't ask for it.

THEUROPIDES
calling out to TRANIO, from a distance . Hark you! you whip-knave, come back to me.

TRANIO
to THEUROPIDES . I'll be there just now. *To the BANKER.* Don't you be troublesome: no one's going to pay you; do what you please. You are the only person, I suppose, that lends money upon interest. *Moves towards THEUROPIDES.*

A BANKER.
bawling aloud . Give me my interest! pay me my interest! you pay my interest! Are you going to give me my interest this instant? Give me my interest!

TRANIO
Interest here, interest there! The old rogue knows how to talk about nothing but interest. I do not think that ever I saw any beast more vile than you.

A BANKER.
Upon my faith, you don't alarm me now with those expressions. This is of a hot nature; although it is at a distance off, it scorches badly.

TRANIO
Don't you be troublesome; no one's going to pay you; do what you please. You are the only person, I suppose, that lends money upon

interest.

THEUROPIDES
to TRANIO . Pray, what interest is this that he is asking for?

TRANIO
in a low voice, to the BANKER . Look now; his father has arrived from abroad, not long since; he'll pay you both interest and principal; don't you then attempt any further to make us your enemies. See whether he puts you off.

A BANKER.
Nay but, I'll take it, if anything's offered.

THEUROPIDES
to TRANIO, coming towards him . What do you say, then —— ?

TRANIO
What is it you mean?

THEUROPIDES
Who is this? What is he asking for? Why is he thus rudely speaking of my son Philolaches in this way, and giving you abuse to your face? What's owing him?

TRANIO
to THEUROPIDES . I beg of you, do order the money to be thrown in the face of this dirty brute.

THEUROPIDES
I, order it?

TRANIO
Order the fellow's face to be pelted with money.

A BANKER.
coming nearer . I could very well put up with a pelting with money.

THEUROPIDES
to TRANIO . What money's this?

TRANIO
Philolaches owes this person a little.

THEUROPIDES
How much?

TRANIO
About forty minæ.

A BANKER.
to THEUROPIDES . Really, don't think much of that; it's a trifle, in fact.

TRANIO
Don't you hear him? Troth now, prithee, doesn't he seem just suited to be a Banker — a generation that's most roguish?

THEUROPIDES
I don't care, just now, for that, who he is or whence he is; this I want to be told me, this I very much wish to know — I heard from him that there was interest owing on the money as well.

TRANIO
Forty-four minæ are due to him. Say that you'll pay it, that he may be off.

THEUROPIDES
I, say that I'll pay it?

TRANIO
Do say so.

THEUROPIDES
What, I?

TRANIO
You yourself. Do only say so. Do be guided by me. Do promise. Come now, I say; I beg of you.

THEUROPIDES
Answer me; what has been done with this money?

TRANIO
It's safe.

THEUROPIDES
Pay it yourselves then, if it's safe,

TRANIO
Your son has bought a house.

THEUROPIDES
A house?

TRANIO
A house.

THEUROPIDES
Bravo! Philolaches is taking after his father! The fellow now turns to merchandize. A house, say you?

TRANIO
A house, I tell you. But do you know of what sort?

THEUROPIDES
How can I know?

TRANIO
Out with you!

THEUROPIDES
What's the matter?

TRANIO

Don’t ask me that.

THEUROPIDES
But why so?

TRANIO
Bright as a mirror, pure brilliancy itself.

THEUROPIDES
Excellently done, upon my faith! Well, how much did he agree to give for it?

TRANIO
As many great talents as you and I put together make; but these forty minæ he paid by way of earnest. *Pointing to the BANKER.* From him he received what we paid the other man. Do you quite understand? For after this house was in such a state as I mentioned to you, he at once purchased another house for himself.

THEUROPIDES
Excellently done, upon my faith!

A BANKER.
touching TRANIO . Hark you. Mid-day is now close at hand.

TRANIO
Prithee, do dismiss this puking fellow, that he mayn’t worry us to death. Forty-four minæ are due to him, both principal and interest.

A BANKER.
’Tis just that much; I ask for nothing more.

TRANIO
Upon my faith, I really could have wished that you had asked more, if only by a single coin.

THEUROPIDES
to the BANKER . Young man, transact the business with me.

A BANKER.
I'm to ask it of you, you mean?

THEUROPIDES
Come for it to-morrow.

A BANKER.
I'll be off, then; I'm quite satisfied if I get it tomorrow. *(Exit.)*

TRANIO
aside . A plague may all the Gods and Goddesses send upon him! so utterly has he disarranged my plans. On my word, no class of men is there more disgusting, or less acquainted with fair dealing than the banking race.

THEUROPIDES
In what neighbourhood did my son buy this house?

TRANIO
aside . Just see that, now! I'm undone!

THEUROPIDES
Are you going to tell me that which I ask you?

TRANIO
I'll tell you; but I'm thinking what was the name of the owner. *Pretends to think.*

THEUROPIDES
Well, call it to mind, then.

TRANIO
aside . What am I to do now, except put the lie upon this neighbour of ours next door? I'll say that his son has bought that house. I' faith, I've heard say that a lie piping-hot is the best lie; this is piping-hot; although it is at a distance off, it scorches badly. Whatever the Gods dictate, that am I determined to say.

THEUROPIDES
Well now? Have you recollected it by this?

TRANIO
aside . May the Gods confound that fellow! — no this other fellow, rather. *To THEUROPIDES.* Your son has bought the house of this next-door neighbour of yours.

THEUROPIDES
In real truth?

TRANIO
If, indeed, you are going to pay down the money, then in real truth; if you are not going to pay it, in real truth he has not bought it.

THEUROPIDES
He hasn't bought it in a very good situation.

TRANIO
Why yes, in a very good one.

THEUROPIDES
I' faith, I should like to look over this house; just knock at the door, and call some one to you from within, Tranio.

TRANIO
aside . Why just look now, again I don't know what I'm to say. Once more, now, are the surges bearing me upon the self-same rock. What now? I' faith, I can't discover what I am now to do; I'm caught in the fact.

THEUROPIDES
Just call some one out of doors; ask him to show us round.

TRANIO
going to the door of SIMO'S house . Hallo there, you! *Turning round* But there are ladies here; we must first see whether they are willing or unwilling.

THEUROPIDES
You say what's good and proper; just make enquiry, and ask. I'll wait here outside until you come out.

TRANIO
aside . May all the Gods and Goddesses utterly confound you, old gentleman! in such a fashion are you thwarting my artful plans in every way. Bravo! very good! Look, Simo himself, the owner of the house, is coming out of doors. I'll step aside here, until I have convened the senate of council in my mind. Then, when I've discovered what I am to do, I'll join him. *THEUROPIDES and TRANIO stand at a distance from SIMO'S house, in opposite directions, THEUROPIDES being out of sight.*

Enter SIMO, from his house.

SIMO
to himself . I've not enjoyed myself better at home this year than I have to-day, nor has at any time any meal pleased me better. My wife provided a very nice breakfast for me; now she bids me go take a nap. By no means! It instantly struck me that it didn't so happen by chance. She provided a better breakfast than is her wont; and then, the old lady wanted to draw me away to my chamber. Sleep is not good after breakfast — out upon it! I secretly stole away from the house, out of doors. My wife, I'm sure, is now quite bursting with rage at home.

TRANIO
apart . A sore mischance is provided for this old fellow by the evening; for he must both dine and go to bed in-doors in sorry fashion.

SIMO
continuing . The more I reflect upon it in my mind: if any person has a dowried wife, sleep has no charms for him. I detest going to take a nap. It's a settled matter with me to be off to the Forum from here, rather than nap it at home. And, i' faith *to the AUDIENCE* , I don't

know how your wives are in their behaviour; this wife of mine, I know right well how badly she treats me, and that she will prove more annoying to me hereafter than she has been.

TRANIO
apart . If your escape, old gentleman, turns out amiss, there'll be no reason for you to be accusing any one of the Gods; by very good right, you may justly lay the blame upon yourself. It's time now for me to accost this old fellow. 'Tis down upon him. I've hit upon a plan whereby to cajole the old fellow, by means of which to drive grief away from me. I'll accost him. *Accosting him.* May the Gods, Simo, send on you many blessings! *Takes him by the hand.*

SIMO
Save you, Tranio!

TRANIO
How fare you?

SIMO
Not amiss. What are you about?

TRANIO
Holding by the hand a very worthy man.

SIMO
You act in a friendly way, in speaking well of me.

TRANIO
It certainly is your due.

SIMO
But, i' faith, in you I don't hold a good servant by the hand.

THEUROPIDES
calling from a distance, where he is not perceived by SIMO . Hark you! you whip-knave, come back to me.

TRANIO
turning round . I'll be there just now.

SIMO
Well now, how soon —— ?

TRANIO
What is it?

SIMO
The usual goings-on.

TRANIO
Tell me then, these usual goings-on, what are they?

SIMO
The way that you yourselves proceed. But, Tranio, to say the truth, according as men are, it so befits you to humour them; reflecting, at the same time, how short life is.

TRANIO
What of all this? Dear me, at last, after some difficulty, I perceive that you are talking about these goings-on of ours.

SIMO
I' faith, you people are living a merry life, just as befits you: on wine, good cheer, nice dainty fish, you enjoy life.

TRANIO
Why yes, so it was in time past, indeed; but now these things have come to an end all at once.

SIMO
How so?

TRANIO
So utterly, Simo, are we all undone!

SIMO
Won’t you hold your tongue? Everything has gone on prosperously with you hitherto.

TRANIO
I don’t deny that it has been as you say; undoubtedly, we have lived heartily, just as we pleased; but, Simo, in such a way has the breeze now forsaken our ship ——

SIMO
What’s the matter? In what way?

TRANIO
In a most shocking way.

SIMO
What, wasn’t it hauled ashorein safety?

TRANIO
Ah me!

SIMO
What’s the matter?

TRANIO
Ah wretched me! I’m utterly undone!

SIMO
How so?

TRANIO
Because a ship has come, to smash the hull of our ship.

SIMO
I would wish as you would wish, Tranio, for your own sake. But what is the matter? Do inform me.

TRANIO

I will inform you. My master has arrived from abroad.

SIMO
In that case, the cord will be stretched for you; thence to the place where iron fetters clink; after that, straight to the cross.

TRANIO
Now, by your knees, I do implore you, don't give information to my master.

SIMO
Don't you fear; he shall know nothing from me.

TRANIO
Blessings on you, my patron.

SIMO
I don't care for clients of this description for myself.

TRANIO
Now as to this about which our old gentleman has sent me.

SIMO
First answer me this that I ask you. As yet, has your old gentleman discovered anything of these matters?

TRANIO
Nothing whatever.

SIMO
Has he censured his son at all?

TRANIO
He is as calm as the calm weather is wont to be. Now he has requested me most earnestly to beg this of you, that leave may be given him to see over this house of yours.

SIMO

It's not for sale.

TRANIO
I know that indeed; but the old gentleman wishes to build a woman's apartment here in his own house, baths, too, and a piazza, and a porch.

SIMO
What has he been dreaming of?

TRANIO
I'll tell you. He wishes to give his son a wife as soon as he can; for that purpose he wants a new apartment for the women. But he says that some builder, I don't know who, has been praising up to him this house of yours, as being remarkably well built; now he's desirous to take a model from it, if you don't make any objection ——

SIMO
Indeed, he is really choosing a plan for himself from a piece of poor workmanship.

TRANIO
It was because he heard that here the summer heat was much modified; that this house was wont to be inhabited each day all day long.

SIMO
Why really, upon my faith, on the contrary, while there's shade in every direction, in spite of it, the sun is always here from morning till night: he stands, like a dun, continually at the door; and I have no shade anywhere, unless, perhaps, there may be some in the well.

TRANIO
Well now, have you one from Sarsina, if you have no woman of Umbria?

SIMO
Don't be impertinent. It is just as I tell you.

TRANIO
Still, he wishes to look over it.

SIMO
He may look over it, if he likes. If there is anything that takes his fancy, let him build after my plan.

TRANIO
Am I to go and call this person hither?

SIMO
Go and call him.

TRANIO
(to himself, as he goes to the other side of the stage to call THEUROPIDES). They say that Alexander the Great and Agathocles achieved two very great exploits; what shall be the lot of myself, a third, who, unaided, am achieving deeds imperishable? This old fellow is carrying his pack-saddle, the other one, as well. I've hit upon a novel trade for myself, not a bad one; whereas muleteers have mules to carry pack-saddles; I've got men to carry the pack-saddles. They are able to carry heavy burdens; whatever you put upon them, they carry. Now, I don't know whether I am to address him. I'll accost him, however. *Calling aloud.* Hark you, Theuropides!

THEUROPIDES
coming forward . Well; who's calling me?

TRANIO
A servant most attached to his master. Where you sent me, I got it all agreed to.

THEUROPIDES
Prithee, why did you stay there so long?

TRANIO
The old gentleman hadn't leisure; I was waiting until then.

THEUROPIDES
You keep up that old way of yours, of being tardy.

TRANIO
Hark you! if you please reflect upon this proverb: to blow and swallow at the same moment isn't easy to be done; I couldn't be here and there at the same time.

THEUROPIDES
What now?

TRANIO
Come and look, and inspect it at your own pleasure.

THEUROPIDES
Very well, you go before me.

TRANIO
Am I delaying to do so?

THEUROPIDES
I'll follow after you.

TRANIO
as they advance . Look, the old gentleman himself is awaiting you before the door, but he is concerned that he has sold this house.

THEUROPIDES
Why so?

TRANIO
He begs me to persuade Philolaches to let him off.

THEUROPIDES
I don't think he will. Each man reaps on his own farm. If it had been bought dear, we shouldn't have had permission to return it on his hands. Whatever profit there is, it's proper to bring it home. It don't, now-a-days, befit men to be showing compassion.

TRANIO
I’ faith, you are losing time while you are talking. Follow me.

THEUROPIDES
Be it so.

TRANIO
to THEUROPIDES . I’ll give you my services. *Pointing.* There’s the old gentleman. *To SIMO.* Well now, I’ve brought you this person.

SIMO
I’m glad that you’ve arrived safely from abroad, Theuropides.

THEUROPIDES
May the Gods bless you.

SIMO
Your servant was telling me that you were desirous to look over this house.

THEUROPIDES
Unless it’s inconvenient to you.

SIMO
Oh no; quite convenient. Do step in-doors and look over it.

THEUROPIDES
pausing . But yet — the ladies ——

SIMO
Take you care not to trouble yourself a straw about any lady. Walk in every direction, wherever you like, all over the house just as though it were your own.

THEUROPIDES
apart to TRANIO . “Just as though —— ?”

TRANIO

whispering . Oh, take care that you don't throw it in his teeth now in his concern, that you have bought it. Don't you see him, how sad a countenance the old gentleman has?

THEUROPIDES
apart . I see. TRA. *apart* . Then don't seem to exult, and to be overmuch delighted; in fact, don't make mention that you've bought it.

THEUROPIDES
apart . I understand; and I think you've given good advice, and that it shows a humane disposition. *Turning to SIMO.* What now?

SIMO
Won't you go in? Look over it at your leisure, just as you like.

THEUROPIDES
I consider that you are acting civilly and kindly.

SIMO
Troth, I wish to do so. Should you like some one to show you over.

THEUROPIDES
Away with any one to show me over. I don't want him.

SIMO
Why? What's the matter?

THEUROPIDES
I'll go wrong, rather than any one should show me over.

TRANIO
pointing . Don't you see, this vestibule before the house, and the piazza, of what a compass it is?

THEUROPIDES
Troth, really handsome!

TRANIO
Well, look now. what pillars there are, with what strength they are built, and of what a thickness.

THEUROPIDES
I don't think that I ever saw handsomer pillars.

SIMO
I' faith, they were some time since bought by me at such a price!

TRANIO
aside, whispering . Don't you hear— "They were once"? He seems hardly able to refrain from tears.

THEUROPIDES
At what price did you purchase them?

SIMO
I gave three minæ for the two, besides the carriage, *He retires to some distance.*

THEUROPIDES
after looking close at them, to TRANIO . Why, upon my word, they are much more unsound than I thought them at first.

TRANIO
Why so?

THEUROPIDES
Because, i' faith, the woodworm has split them both from the bottom.

TRANIO
I think they were cut at an improper season; that fault damages them; but even as it is, they are quite good enough, if they are covered with pitch. But it was no foreign pulse-eating artisan did this work. Don't you see the joints in the door? *Pointing.*

THEUROPIDES
I see them.

TRANIO
Look, how close together they are sleeping.

THEUROPIDES
Sleeping?

TRANIO
That is, how they wink, I intended to say. Are you satisfied?

THEUROPIDES
The more I look at each particular, the more it pleases me.

TRANIO
pointing . Don't you see the painting, where one crow is baffling two vultures? The crow stands there; it's pecking at them both in turn. This way, look, prithee, towards me, that yon may be able to see the crow. *THEUROPIDES turns towards him.* Now do you see it?

THEUROPIDES
looking about . For my part, I really see no crow there.

TRANIO
But do you look in that direction, towards yourselves, since you cannot discover the crow, if perchance you may be able to espy the vultures. *THEUROPIDES turns towards SIMO.* Now do you see them?

THEUROPIDES
Upon my faith, I don't see them.

TRANIO
But I can see two vultures.

THEUROPIDES
To make an end of it with you, I don't see any bird at all painted

here.

TRANIO
Well then, I give it up. I excuse you; it is through age you cannot see.

THEUROPIDES
These things which I can see, really they do all please me mightily.

SIMO
coming forward . Now, at length, it's worth your while to move further on. THEU. Troth, you give good advice.

SIMO
calling at the door . Ho there, boy! take this person round this house and the apartments. But I myself would have shown you round, if I hadn't had business at the Forum.

THEUROPIDES
Away with any one to show me over. I don't want to be shown over. Whatever it is, I'd rather go wrong than any one should show me over.

SIMO
The house I'm speaking of.

THEUROPIDES
Then I'll go in without any one to show me over.

SIMO
Go, by all means.

THEUROPIDES
I'll go in-doors, then.

TRANIO
holding him back . Stop, please; let me see whether the dog ——

THEUROPIDES

Very well then, look. *TRANIO looks into the passage.*

TRANIO
There is one.

THEUROPIDES
looking in . Where is it?

TRANIO
to the dog . Be off and be hanged! ‘St, won’t you be off to utter perdition with you? What, do you still linger? ‘St, away with you from here!

SIMO
coming nearer to the door . There’s no danger. You only move on. It’s as gentle as a woman in childbed. You may boldly step in-doors wherever you like. I’m going hence to the Forum.

THEUROPIDES
You’ve acted obligingly. Good speed to you. *Exit SIMO.* Tranio, come, make that dog move away from the door inside, although it isn’t to be feared.

TRANIO
Nay but *pointing* , you look at it, how gently it lies. Unless you’d like yourself to appear troublesome and cowardly ——

THEUROPIDES
Very well, just as you like.

TRANIO
Follow me this way then.

THEUROPIDES
For my part, I shall not move in any direction from your feet. *They go into the house.*

ACT IV.

Enter PHANISCUS.

PHANISCUS
to himself . Servants who, though they are free from fault, still stand in awe of punishment, those same are wont to be serviceable to their masters. But those who fear nothing, after they have merited punishment, hit upon foolish plans for themselves: they exercise themselves in running; they take to flight. But, if they are caught, they acquire from punishment a hoard, which by good means they cannot. They increase from a very little, and from that they lay by a treasure. The resolution that's in my mind is to be determined to be on my guard against punishment, before my back comes to lose its state of soundness. As hitherto it has been, so does it become my hide still to be, without a bruise, and such that I should decline its being beaten. If I have any control over it, I shall keep it well covered up. When punishment is being showered down on others, don't let it be showered down on me. But as servants wish their master to be, such is he wont to be. He is good to the good, bad to the bad. But now at our house at home there do live so many rogues, lavish of their property, bearers of stripes. When they are called to go fetch their master, "I shan't go; don't be plaguing me; I know where you are hurrying off to," is the reply. "Now, faith, you mule, you're longing to go to pasturage out of doors." With better deserts, this advantage have I reaped from them, and, in consequence, I have come from home. I alone, out of so many servants, am going to fetch my master. When, to-morrow, my master comes to know this, in the morning he will chastise them with bull's-hide spoils. In fine, I care less for their backs than for my own. Much rather shall they be bull's-hide-scourged than I be rope-scourged. *Moves on.*

Enter a SERVANT.

ANOTHER SERVANT of Callidamates.
Hold you and stop this instant. Phaniscus! look round, I say!

PHANISCUS
not turning round . Don't be annoying to me.

ANOTHER SERVANT of Callidamates.
Do see how scornful the monkey is!

PHANISCUS
I am so for myself; I choose to be. Why do you trouble yourself about it? *Walking on.*

ANOTHER SERVANT of Callidamates.
Are you going to stop this instant, you dirty parasite?

PHANISCUS
turning round . How am I a parasite?

ANOTHER SERVANT of Callidamates.
Why, I'll tell you: you can be drawn anywhere by victuals. Do you give yourself airs, because your master's so fond of you?

PHANISCUS
rubbing his eyes . O dear, my eyes do ache.

ANOTHER SERVANT of Callidamates.
Why so?

PHANISCUS
Because the smoke's so troublesome.

ANOTHER SERVANT of Callidamates.
Hold your tongue, will you, you clever workman, who are in the habit of coining money out of lead.

PHANISCUS
You cannot compel me to be abusive to you. My master knows me.

ANOTHER SERVANT of Callidamates.
Why, really, his own pillow he ought to know, for resting on when

drunk.

PHANISCUS
If you were sober, you wouldn't be abusive.

ANOTHER SERVANT of Callidamates.
Am I to give heed to you, when you won't to me.

PHANISCUS
But, you rascal, you come along with me to fetch him.

ANOTHER SERVANT of Callidamates.
Troth now, Phaniscus, prithee, do leave off talking about these matters.

PHANISCUS
I'll do so, and knock at the door. *Knocks at the door of the house of THEUROPIDES.* Hallo there! is there any person here to protect this door from a most serious injury? *Knocking again.* Is any one, is any one, I say, coming out here and going to open it? Why, really, no one comes out here. Just as befits such worthless fellows, so they are. But on that account, I've the more need to be cautious that no one may come out and use me ill. *They stand aside.*

Enter TRANIO and THEUROPIDES, from the house of SIMO.

TRANIO
What's your opinion of this bargain?

THEUROPIDES
I am quite delighted.

TRANIO
Does it seem to you to have been bought too dear?

THEUROPIDES
I' faith, I'm sure that I never anywhere saw a house thrown away, this one only excepted.

TRANIO
Does it please you, then?

THEUROPIDES
Does it please me, do you ask me? Why yes, upon my faith, it really does please me very much.

TRANIO
What a fine set of rooms for the women! What a porch!

THEUROPIDES
Exceedingly fine. For my part, I don't think that there is any Porch larger than this in the public buildings.

TRANIO
Why, I myself and Philolaches have taken the measure sure of all the porches in the public buildings.

THEUROPIDES
Well, what then?

TRANIO
This is far larger than all of them.

THEUROPIDES
Immortal Gods — a splendid bargain! On my word, if he were now to offer six great talents of silver, ready money, for it, I would never take it.

TRANIO
Upon my faith, if you were inclined to take it, I would never let you.

THEUROPIDES
My money has been well invested upon this purchase.

TRANIO
Boldly confess that by my advice and prompting it was done, who urged him to take up the money of the Banker upon interest, which

we paid this person by way of deposit.

THEUROPIDES
You've saved the whole ship. Eighty minæ, you say, are owing for it?

TRANIO
Not a coin more.

THEUROPIDES
He may have it to-day.

TRANIO
By all means so, that there may be no dispute arising; or else pay them over to me, I'll then pay them over to him.

THEUROPIDES
But still, don't let there be any taking me in, if I do give them to you.

TRANIO
Could I venture to deceive you in deed or word even in jest only?

THEUROPIDES
Could I venture not to be on my guard against you, so as not to trust anything to you?

TRANIO
Why, have I ever imposed upon you in anything, since I was your servant?

THEUROPIDES
But I've taken good care of that; I owe thanks to myself and my own judgment for that. If I'm only on my guard against you solely, I'm quite wise enough.

TRANIO
aside . I agree with you.

THEUROPIDES
Now be off into the country; tell my son that I've arrived.

TRANIO
I'll do as you wish.

THEUROPIDES
Run with all speed; bid him come to the city at once together with you.

TRANIO
Very well. *Aside.* Now I'll betake myself this way by the back-door to my boon-companions; I'll tell them that things are quiet here, and how I have kept him away from here. *(Exit.)*

THEUROPIDES, PHANISCUS, and another SERVANT.

PHANISCUS
coming forward . Really, I don't hear either the sound of revellers here, as once it was, nor yet the music-girl singing, nor any one else. *Goes towards the door.*

THEUROPIDES
What's the matter here? What are these people seeking at my house? What do they want? What are they peeping in for?

PHANISCUS
I shall proceed to knock at the door. *Knocks.* Hallo there, unlock the door! Hallo, Tranio! are you going to open it, I say?

THEUROPIDES
advancing . What story's this, I wonder?

PHANISCUS
aloud . Are you going to open it, I say? I've come to fetch my master Callidamates.

THEUROPIDES

Harkye, you lads! what are you doing there? Why are you breaking down that door?

PHANISCUS
Our master's at a drinking-party here.

THEUROPIDES
Your master at a drinking-party here?

PHANISCUS
I say so.

THEUROPIDES
You're carrying the joke too far, my lad.

PHANISCUS
We've come to fetch him.

THEUROPIDES
What person?

PHANISCUS
Our master. Prithee, how often must I tell you?

THEUROPIDES
There's no one living here my lad; for I do think that you are a decent lad.

PHANISCUS
Doesn't a young gentleman called Philolaches live in this house?

ANOTHER SERVANT of Callidamates.
aside . This old fellow's crack-brained, surely.

PHANISCUS
You are entirely mistaken, respected sir; for unless he moved from here to-day or yesterday, I know for certain that he's living here.

THEUROPIDES

Why, no one has been living here for these six months past.

ANOTHER SERVANT of Callidamates.
You are dreaming.

THEUROPIDES
What, I?

ANOTHER SERVANT of Callidamates.
You.

THEUROPIDES
Don't you be impertinent. Let me speak to the lad. *Pointing to PHANISCUS.*

PHANISCUS
No one lives there? O dear ——

THEUROPIDES
It's the fact.

PHANISCUS
Really! why, yesterday and the day before, four, five, six days ago, all along, in fact, since his father went abroad from here, eating and drinking have never ceased for a single three days here.

THEUROPIDES
What is it you say?

PHANISCUS
That eating and drinking have never stopped for a single three days here, bringing in wenches, living like Greeks, hiring harpists and music-girls.

THEUROPIDES
Who was it did this?

PHANISCUS

Philolaches.

THEUROPIDES
What Philolaches?

PHANISCUS
He whose father I take to be Theuropides.

THEUROPIDES
apart . O dear, O dear! I'm utterly undone, if he says the truth in this. I'll continue to question him still Do you say that this Philolaches, whoever he is, has been in the habit of drinking here together with your master?

PHANISCUS
Here, I tell you.

THEUROPIDES
My lad, contrary to your appearance, you are a fool. See now, please, that you've not perchance been dropping in somewhere for an afternoon's whet, and have been drinking there a little more than was enough.

PHANISCUS
What do you mean?

THEUROPIDES
Just what I say: don't be going by mistake to other persons' houses.

PHANISCUS
I know where I ought to go, and the place to which I was to come. Philolaches lives here, whose father is Theuropides; and who, after his father went away to trade, made free a music-girl here.

THEUROPIDES
Philolaches, say you?

PHANISCUS

Just so; Philematium, I mean.

THEUROPIDES
For how much?

ANOTHER SERVANT of Callidamates.
For thirty talents.

PHANISCUS
No, by Apollo; you mean minæ.

THEUROPIDES
Do you say that a mistress was purchased for Philolaches for thirty minæ?

PHANISCUS
I do say so.

THEUROPIDES
And that he gave her her freedom?

PHANISCUS
I do say so.

THEUROPIDES
And that after his father had departed hence abroad, he has been carousing here continually with your master?

PHANISCUS
I do say so.

THEUROPIDES
Well, has he made purchase of the house next door here?

PHANISCUS
I don't say so.

THEUROPIDES
Has he given forty minæ, too, to this person, to be as a deposit?

PHANISCUS
Nor yet do I say so.

THEUROPIDES
Ah me! you've proved my ruin!

PHANISCUS
Aye, and he has proved the ruin of his father.

THEUROPIDES
You prophesy the truth! I could wish it false!

PHANISCUS
A friend of his father, I suppose?

THEUROPIDES
Ah me! Upon my faith, you do pronounce him to be a wretched father.

PHANISCUS
Why really, this is nothing at all-thirty minæ, in comparison with the other expenses he has incurred in good living. He has ruined his father. There's one servant there a very great scoundrel, Tranio by name; he could even waste the revenue of a Hercules. On my word, I'm sadly distrest for his father; for when he comes to know that things have gone on thus, a hot coal will be scorching his breast, poor man.

THEUROPIDES
If, indeed, this is the truth.

PHANISCUS
What am I to gain, that I should tell a lie? *Knocks again at the door.* Hallo, you! is any one coming to open this door?

ANOTHER SERVANT of Callidamates.
Why do you knock in this way, when there's no one in the house?

PHANISCUS
I fancy that he's gone elsewhere to carouse. Now then, let's begone. *They move as if going.*

THEUROPIDES
What, my lad, are you off then? Liberty's the overcoat for your back.

PHANISCUS
Nothing have I with which to cover my back, except to pay respect and service to my master. *(Exeunt PHANISCUS and SERVANT.)*

THEUROPIDES
to himself . By my troth, I am undone! What need is there of talking? According to the words I have heard, I surely haven't lately voyaged hence to Ægypt, but even to some desolate land and the most remote shores have I been borne about, so much am I at a loss to know where I now am. But I shall soon know; for see, here's the person of whom my son bought the house. *Enter SIMO.*

THEUROPIDES
What are you about?

SIMO
I'm coming home from the Forum.

THEUROPIDES
Has anything new been going on at the Forum to-day?

SIMO
Why yes.

THEUROPIDES
What is it, pray?

SIMO
I saw a dead man being carried to burial.

THEUROPIDES

Dear me! that is something new!

SIMO
I saw one who was dead being carried out to burial They said that he had been alive but just before.

THEUROPIDES
Woe to that head of yours for your nonsense!

SIMO
Why are you, thus idling about, enquiring after the news?

THEUROPIDES
Because I've just arrived from abroad.

SIMO
I'm engaged out to dine: don't suppose I shall invite you.

THEUROPIDES
I' faith, I don't want.

SIMO
But, to-morrow, unless any person invites me first, I'll even dine with you.

THEUROPIDES
I' faith, and that, too, I don't want. Unless you are engaged with something of greater importance, lend me your attention.

SIMO
By all means.

THEUROPIDES
You have received, as far as I understand, forty minæ of Philolaches.

SIMO
Never a coin, so far as I know.

THEUROPIDES

What? Not from my servant Tranio?

SIMO
Much less is that the case.

THEUROPIDES
Which he gave you by way of deposit?

SIMO
What are you dreaming about?

THEUROPIDES
What, I? Why, really, 'tis yourself, who hope that, by dissembling in this manner, you'll be able to make void this bargain.

SIMO
Why, what do you mean?

THEUROPIDES
The business that, in my absence, my son transacted with you here.

SIMO
How did your son, in your absence, transact any business with me? What pray, or on what day?

THEUROPIDES
I owe you eighty minæ of silver.

SIMO
Not to me, indeed, upon my faith; but still, if you do owe them, give them me. Faith must be kept. Don't be attempting to deny it.

THEUROPIDES
Assuredly, I shall not deny that I owe them; and I shall pay them. Do you take care how you deny that you received the forty from him.

SIMO
Troth now, prithee, look this way at me, and answer me. He said that

you were wishful to give a wife to your son; for that reason, he said that you intended building on your own premises.

THEUROPIDES
I, intended building here?

SIMO
So he told me.

THEUROPIDES
Ah me! I'm ruined outright! I've hardly any voice left. Neighbours, I'm undone, ruined quite!

SIMO
Has Tranio been causing any confusion?

THEUROPIDES
Yes; he has thrown everything into confusion. He has made a fool of me to-day in a disgraceful manner.

SIMO
What is it you say?

THEUROPIDES
This matter is just as I am telling you: he has this day made a fool of me in an outrageous manner. Now I beseech you that you'll kindly aid me, and lend me your assistance.

SIMO
What would you have?

THEUROPIDES
I beg of you, come this way together with me.

SIMO
Be it so.

THEUROPIDES

Lend me the assistance of your slaves and some scourges.

SIMO
Take them by all means.

THEUROPIDES
At the same time I'll tell you about this, in what a fashion he has this day imposed upon me. *They go into the house of SIMO.*

ACT V.

Enter TRANIO.

TRANIO
to himself . The man that shall prove timid in critical matters, will not be worth a nutshell. And, really, to say what that expression, “worth a nutshell,” means, I don’t know. But after my master sent me into the country to fetch his son hither, I went that way *pointing* slily through the lane to our garden. At the entrance to the garden that’s in the lane, I opened the door; and by that road I led out all the troop, both men and women. After, from being in a state of siege, I had led out my troops to a place of safety, I adopted the plan of convoking a senate of my comrades, and when I had convoked it, they forthwith banished me from the senate. When I myself perceived that the matter must be decided by my own judgment, as soon as ever I could, I did the same as many others do, whose affairs are in a critical or a perplexed state; they proceed to render them more perplexed, so that nothing can be settled. But I know full well, that now by no means can this be concealed from the old man. But how’s this, that our next neighbour’s door makes a noise? Why, surely this is my master: I’d like to have a taste of his talk. *Goes aside, out of sight of THEUROPIDES. house.*

THEUROPIDES
in the doorway, speaking to SIMO’S SLAVES . Do you stand there, in that spot within the threshold; so that, the very instant I call, you may sally forth at once. Quickly fasten the handcuffs upon him. I’ll wait before the house for this fellow that makes a fool of me, whose hide I’ll make a fool of in fine style, if I live.

TRANIO
apart . The affair’s all out. Now it’s best for you, Tranio, to consider what you are to do.

THEUROPIDES
to himself . I must go to work to catch him cleverly and artfully when

he comes here. I'll not disclose to him my feelings all at once; I'll throw out my line; I'll conceal the fact that I know anything of these matters.

TRANIO
apart . O cunning mortal! not another person in Athens can be pronounced more clever than he. One can no more this day deceive him than he can a stone. I'll accost the man; I'll address him.

THEUROPIDES
to himself . Now I do wish that he would come here.

TRANIO
apart . I' faith, if me indeed you want, here I am ready at hand for you. *Comes forward.*

THEUROPIDES
Bravo! Tranio, what's being done?

TRANIO
The country people are coming from the country Philolaches will be here in a moment.

THEUROPIDES
I' faith, he comes opportunely for me. This neighbour of ours I take to be a shameless and dishonest fellow.

TRANIO
Why so?

THEUROPIDES
Inasmuch as he denies that he knows you.

TRANIO
Denies it?

THEUROPIDES
And declares that you never gave him a single coin of money

TRANIO
Out with you, you are joking me, I do believe; he doesn't deny it.

THEUROPIDES
How so?

TRANIO
I am sure now that you are joking; for surely he doesn't deny it.

THEUROPIDES
Nay but, upon my faith, he really does deny it; or that he has sold this house to Philolaches.

TEA.
Well now, pray, has he denied that the money was paid him?

THEUROPIDES
Nay more, he offered to take an oath to me, if I desired it, that he had neither sold this house, nor had any money him paid been. I told him the same that you told me.

TRANIO
What did he say?

THEUROPIDES
He offered to give up all his servants for examination.

TRANIO
Nonsense! On my faith, he never will give them up.

THEUROPIDES
He really does offer them.

TRANIO
Why then, do you summon him to trial.

THEUROPIDES
Wait a bit; I'll make trial as I fancy. I'm determined on it.

TRANIO
Bring the fellow here to me.

THEUROPIDES
What then, if I go fetch some men?

TRANIO
It ought to have been done already; or else bid the young man to demand possession of the house.

THEUROPIDES
Why no, I want to do this first — to put the servants under examination.

TRANIO
I' faith, I think it ought to be done. Meantime, I'll take possession of this altar.*Runs to the altar.*

THEUROPIDES
Why so?

TRANIO
You can understand nothing. Why, that those may not be able to take refuge here whom he shall give up for examination, I'll keep guard here for you; so that the examination may not come to nothing.

THEUROPIDES
Get up from the altar.

TRANIO
By no means.

THEUROPIDES
Prithee, don't you take possession of the altar.

TRANIO
Why so?

THEUROPIDES
You shall hear; why, because I especially want this, for them to be taking refuge there. Do let them; so much the more easily shall I get him fined before the judge.

TRANIO
What you intend to do, do it. Why do you wish to sow further strife? You don't know how ticklish a thing it is to go to law.

THEUROPIDES
Just get up, *beckoning* this way; it's, then, to ask your advice upon something that I want you.

TRANIO
Still, as I am, I'll give my advice from this spot: my wits are much sharper when I'm sittings. Besides, advice is given with higher sanction from holy places.

THEUROPIDES
Get up; don't be trifling. Just look me in the face.

TRANIO
looking at him . I am looking.

THEUROPIDES
Do you see me?

TRANIO
I do see — that if any third person were to step in here, he would die of hunger.

THEUROPIDES
Why so?

TRANIO
Because he would get no profit; for, upon my faith, we are both artful ones.

THEUROPIDES
I'm undone!

TRANIO
What's the matter with you?

THEUROPIDES
You have deceived me.

TRANIO
How so, pray?

THEUROPIDES
You've wiped me clean.

TRANIO
Consider, please, if it wasn't well done; is your nose running still?

THEUROPIDES
Aye, all my brains besides have you been wiping out of my head as well. For all your villanies I have discovered from their very roots; and not from the roots, indeed, i' faith, but even from beneath the very roots. Never this day, by my troth, will you have planned all this without being punished. I shall at once, you villain, order fire and faggots to be placed around you.

TRANIO
Don't do it; for it's my way to be sweeter boiled than roasted.

THEUROPIDES
Upon my faith, I'll make an example of you.

TRANIO
Because I please you, you select me for an example.

THEUROPIDES
Say now: what kind of a person did I leave my son, when I went away from here?

TRANIO
One with feet and hands, with fingers, ears, eyes, and lips.

THEUROPIDES
I asked you something else than that.

TRANIO
For that reason I now answer you something else. But look, I see Callidamates, the friend of your son, coming this way. Deal with me in his presence, if you want anything

Enter CALLIDAMATES, at a distance.

CALLIDAMATES
to himself . When I had buried all drowsiness, and slept off the debauch, Philolaches told me that his father had arrived here from abroad; in what a way too his servant had imposed upon the man on his arrival; he said that he was afraid to come into his presence. Now of our company I am deputed sole ambassador, to obtain peace from his father. And look, most opportunely here he is. *Accosting THEUROPIDES.* I wish you health, Theuropides, and am glad that you've got back safe from abroad. You must dine here with us to-day. Do so.

THEUROPIDES
Callidamates, may the Gods bless you. For your dinner I offer you my thanks.

CALLIDAMATES
Will you come then?

TRANIO
To THEUROPIDES. Do promise him; I'll go for you, if you don't like.

THEUROPIDES
Whip-scoundrel, laughing at me still?

TRANIO
What, because I say that I'll go to dinner for you?

THEUROPIDES
But you shan't go. I'll have you carried to the cross, as you deserve.

TRANIO
Come, let this pass, and say that I shall go to the dinner. Why are you silent?

CALLIDAMATES
to TRANIO . But why, you greatest of simpletons, have you taken refuge at the altar?

TRANIO
He frightened me on his arrival. *To THEUROPIDES.* Say now, what I have done amiss. Look, now there's an umpire for us both; come, discuss the matter.

THEUROPIDES
I say that you have corrupted my son.

TRANIO
Only listen. I confess that he has done amiss; that he has given freedom to his mistress; that in your absence he has borrowed money at interest; that, I admit, is squandered away. Has he done anything different to what sons of the noblest families do?

THEUROPIDES
Upon my faith, I must be on my guard with you; you are too clever a pleader.

CALLIDAMATES
Just let me be umpire in this matter. *TO TRANIO.* Get up; I'll seat myself there.

THEUROPIDES
By all means: take the management of this dispute to yourself.

Pushes him to one side of the altar.

TRANIO
Why, this is surely a trick. Make me, then, not to be in a fright, and yourself to be in a fright in my stead.

THEUROPIDES
I consider now everything of trifling consequence, compared with the way in which he has fooled me.

TRANIO
I' faith, 'twas cleverly done, and I rejoice that it was done. Those who have white heads ought at that age to be wiser.

THEUROPIDES
What am I now to do if my friend Demipho or Philonides ——

TRANIO
Tell them in what way your servant made a fool of you. You would be affording most capital plots for Comedies.

CALLIDAMATES
Hold your tongue awhile; let me speak in my turn. — Listen.

THEUROPIDES
By all means.

CALLIDAMATES
In the first place of all then, you know that I am the companion of your son; he has gone to my house, for he is ashamed to come into your presence, because he knows that you are aware what he has done. Now, I beseech you, do pardon his simplicity and youthfulness. He is your son; you know that this age is wont to play such pranks; whatever he has.done, he has done in company with me. We have acted wrong: the interest, principal, and all the sum at which the mistress was purchased, all of it we will find, and will contribute together, at our own cost, not yours.

THEUROPIDES
No mediator could have come to me more able to influence me than yourself. I am neither angry with him, nor do I blame him for anything: nay more, in my presence, wench on, drink, do what you please. If he's ashamed of this, that he has been extravagant, I have sufficient satisfaction.

CALLIDAMATES
I'm quite ashamed myself

TRANIO
He grants pardon thus far; now then, what is to become of me?

THEUROPIDES
Filth, tied up as you hang, you shall be beaten with stripes.

TRANIO
Even though I am ashamed?

THEUROPIDES
Upon my faith, I'll be the death of you, if I live!

CALLIDAMATES
Make this pardon general; do, pray, forgive Tranio this offence, for my sake.

THEUROPIDES
I would more readily put up with your obtaining any other request of me than that I should forbear sending to perdition this fellow for his most villanous doings.

CALLIDAMATES
Pray, do pardon him.

TRANIO
Do pardon me?

THEUROPIDES

Look there, don't you see how the villain sticks there? *Pointing to the altar.*

CALLIDAMATES
Tranio, do be quiet, if you are in your senses.

THEUROPIDES
Only do you be quiet in urging this matter. I'll subdue him with stripes, so that he shall be quiet.

CALLIDAMATES
Really, there is no need. Come now, do allow yourself to be prevailed upon.

THEUROPIDES
I wish you would not request me.

CALLIDAMATES
Troth now, I do entreat you.

THEUROPIDES
I wish you would not request me, I tell you.

CALLIDAMATES
It's in vain you wish me not; only do grant this one pardon for his offence, pray, for my sake, I do entreat you.

TRANIO
Why make this difficulty? As if to-morrow I shouldn't be very soon committing some other fault; then, both of them, both this one and that, you'll be able to punish soundly.

CALLIDAMATES
Do let me prevail upon you.

THEUROPIDES
Well then, have it so; begone, unpunished! *TRANIO jumps down from the altar.* There now, *pointing to CALLIDAMATES* return him

thanks for it. *Coming forward.* Spectators, this Play is finished; grant us your applause.

PERSA

Translated by Henry Thomas Riley

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THE SUBJECT.

TOXILUS, who is left in charge of his master's house in his absence, is desirous of obtaining the liberty of his mistress Lemniselene, who belongs to the Procurer Dordalus. He applies to his friend Sagaristio to lend him the sum necessary for that purpose. Sagaristio has not the money himself, but succeeds in finding some for the use of his friend. With the view of getting back the money when paid to Dordalus, Toxilus prevails on the Parasite Saturio to allow his daughter to be sold by Sagaristio to Dordalus, as though she were a slave. While these arrangements are being made, Lemniselene sends her attendant Sophoclidisca with a letter to Toxilus, and he at the same time sends the boy Pægnium with a message to Lemniselene. On receiving the money from Sagaristio, Toxilus pays it to Dordalus, who sets Lemniselene at liberty. Immediately after this, Sagaristio, dressed as a Persian, brings the daughter of Saturio, also dressed as a Persian captive, and sells her to Dordalus, without warranty, for a large sum of money. Immediately upon the departure of Sagaristio, Saturio makes his appearance, and claiming his daughter, takes her away Toxilus and Sagaristio conclude with a feast, and make merry over the Procurer's misfortunes.

THE ACROSTIC ARGUMENT.

[Supposed to have been written by Priscian the Grammarian.]

HIS master being absent (Profecto), Toxilus purchases (Emit) his mistress, and contrives that the Procurer sets her at liberty; and he then persuades him to buy of her capturer a young woman, a captive (Raptam), the daughter of hit Parasite being dressed up (Subornatâ) for that purpose; and (Atque) as he carouses, he makes sport of Dordalus, thus cajoled.

ACT I.

Enter TOXILUS and SAGARISTIO, on different sides.

TOXILUS
to himself . He who, falling in love, destitute of means, has first entered upon the paths of love, has in his own labours exceeded all the labours of Hercules. For with the lion, and with the Hydra, with the stag, with the Ætolian boar, with the birds of Stamphalus, with Antæus, would I rather contend than with love. So wretched am I become with hunting after money to borrow; and yet, those whom I ask know of nothing to answer me, except "I have got none."

SAGARISTIO
apart . The servant that is desirous faithfully to serve his master, i' troth, it surely does behove him to treasure up full many a thing in his breast which he may think will please his master, both present and abroad. I neither serve with cheerfulness, nor am I quite to my master's satisfaction; but, as though from a running eye, my master is still unable to keep his hands off me, in giving me his commands, in making me the support of his affairs.

TOXILUS
Who's this that's standing opposite to me?

SAGARISTIO
Who's that that's standing opposite to me?

TOXILUS
It's like Sagaristio.

SAGARISTIO
Surely this is my friend Toxilus.

TOXILUS
Certainly it is he.

SAGARISTIO
I think it is he.

TOXILUS
I'll go meet him.

SAGARISTIO
I'll go up and accost him.

TOXILUS
meeting him . O Sagaristio, may the Gods bless you.

SAGARISTIO
O Sagaristio, the Gods grant you what you may desire. How fare you?

TOXILUS
Just as I can.

SAGARISTIO
What's the matter?

TOXILUS
I still live.

SAGARISTIO
Quite then to your satisfaction?

TOXILUS
If the things come to pass which I desire, quite.

SAGARISTIO
You deal with your friends in a very silly fashion.

TOXILUS
How so?

SAGARISTIO
Because you ought to give them your commands.

TOXILUS
As for myself, you were already dead to me, because I haven't seen you.

SAGARISTIO
Business, upon my faith ——

TOXILUS
In the iron chain line, perhaps.

SAGARISTIO
For more than a twelvemonth I've been promoted in chains to be commanding officer in the basting line at the mill.

TOXILUS
Why, that's your old line of service.

SAGARISTIO
Have you been quite well all along?

TOXILUS
Not very.

SAGARISTIO
I' faith, it's with reason then you are so pale.

TOXILUS
I've been wounded in the battles of Venus; Cupid has pierced my heart with his arrow.

SAGARISTIO
Do servants then fall in love here?

TOXILUS
Why, what could I do? Was I to be struggling against the Gods? Was I, like the sons of Titan, to be waging war with the Deities, with whom I am not quite able to cope?

SAGARISTIO
Do you only take care that “catapultæ” made of elm don’t pierce your sides.

TOXILUS
In right royal manner I’m celebrating the feast of Freedom.

SAGARISTIO
How so?

TOXILUS
Because my master’s gone abroad.

SAGARISTIO
Do you say so? Is he gone abroad?

TOXILUS
If you can bear to be enjoying yourself, do you come: you shall live with me; you shall be treated with right royal entertainment.

SAGARISTIO
Out upon it *rubbing himself* ; my shoulder-blades are quite itching now, because I’ve heard you mention these things.

TOXILUS
But this one thing is torturing me.

SAGARISTIO
Why, what is it?

TOXILUS
This day is the very last day, to determine whether my mistress is to be free, or whether she is to endure lasting servitude.

SAGARISTIO
What, then, do you now desire?

TOXILUS

You have it in your power to make me your friend for ever.

SAGARISTIO
In what way?

TOXILUS
In lending me six hundred didrachms, for me to pay the same for her freedom, which I will forthwith refund you in the next three or four days. Come, do be good-natured; give me your help.

SAGARISTIO
With what assurance, you impudent fellow, do you venture to ask so much money of me? Why, if I myself were to be sold all in one lot, it's hardly possible for as much to be received as you are asking me for; for now you are asking for water from a pumice-stone, which is all a-dry itself.

TOXILUS
Ought you to be treating me in this fashion?

SAGARISTIO
What am I to do?

TOXILUS
Do you ask the question? Beg it on loan from somebody.

SAGARISTIO
You do the same as you are asking me.

TOXILUS
I've been trying; I've found it nowhere.

SAGARISTIO
I really will try, if any one will trust me.

TOXILUS
Am I then to consider it as a thing in possibility?

SAGARISTIO
If I had had it at home, I'd promise it at once. This is in my power, to use my best endeavours.

TOXILUS
Whatever it is, come you home to me.

SAGARISTIO
Still do you try to get it; I'll carefully do the same. If anything shall turn up, I'll let you know at once.

TOXILUS
I entreat you, and entreat over and over again, do give me your stanch help in this.

SAGARISTIO
O dear! you are worrying me to death by your importunity.

TOXILUS
It's through the fault of love, and not my own, that I'm now become a silly prater to you.

SAGARISTIO
Then, i' troth, I'll now be taking my leave of you *Moving.*

TOXILUS
Are you going away, then? A good walk to you. But betake yourself back as soon as you can, and do take care that I haven't to seek you; I shall be close at home until I have cooked up a mishap for the Procurer. *(Exit SAGARISTIO, and TOXILUS goes into the house.)*

Enter SATURIO.

SATURIO
to himself . The old and ancient calling of my forefathers do I follow, and hold, and cultivate with great care. For never was there any one of my forefathers, but that by acting the parasite they filled their bellies: my father, grandfather, great-grandfather, great-great-

grandfather, his father, and his grandfather, just like mice, always fed on the victuals of others, and in love of good eating no one could excel them. Hard Heads was their surname. From them have I derived this calling, and the station of my forefathers; nor do I wish myself to turn informer, nor indeed does it become me, without risk of my own, to go seize upon the goods of other people; nor do those persons please who do so; I'm speaking out. For whoever does this, more for the sake of the public than of his own benefit, my mind can be induced to believe that he is a citizen both faithful and deserving; but if he should not prosecute to conviction the breaker of the laws, let him pay one half of the intended penalty to the public. And let this, too, be written in that law; when an informer has prosecuted any one, let the other in his turn sue him for just as much, and upon equal terms let them come before the Triumvirs. If that were done, assuredly I'd make those nowhere to be seen, who here with their whitened nets lay siege to the property of others. But am I not a simpleton, to be taking care of the public interests when there are the magistrates, whose duty it is to take care of them? Now I'll in-doors here; I'll go look after the scraps from yesterday, whether they have rested well or not; whether they have had a fever; whether they've been well covered up or not, so that no one could creep up to them. But the door is opening; I must pause in my steps.

Enter TOXILUS, from the house of his MASTER.

TOXILUS
to himself . I've hit upon the whole matter, so that with his own money the Procurer may this day make her his fieed-woman. But see, here's the Parasite whose assistance I have need of. I'll make believe as though I didn't see him; in that way I'll allure the fellow. *Goes to the door, and calls to the SERVANTS within.* Do you attend, you there, and quickly make haste, that I mayn't have any delay when I come in-doors. Mix the honied wine; get ready the quinces and the junkets, that they may be nicely warmed upon the dishes, and throw in some scented calamus. I' faith, that boon-companion of mine, I fancy, will be here just now.

SATURIO
apart . He's meaning me — bravo!

TOXILUS
I think that he'll be here just now from the baths when he has bathed.

SATURIO
apart . How he does keep everything in its due order.

TOXILUS
Take you care that the gravy-cakes and the cheese-biscuits are hot; don't be giving them to me unbaked.

SATURIO
apart . He's speaking the very fact; they are worth nothing raw, only if you swallow them warm. Then, unless the broth for the gravy-cakes is of a thick consistency, that miserable, thin, pale, transparent stuff, is worth nothing at all. The broth for a gravy-cake ought to be like a soup. I don't want it to be going into my bladder, I want it for my stomach.

TOXILUS
pretending not to see him . Some one, I know not who, is talking near me here.

SATURIO
accosting him . O my earthly Jupiter, your fellow- feaster addresses you.

TOXILUS
O Saturio, you've come opportunely for me.

SATURIO
Upon my faith, you are telling a lie, and it becomes you not; for as Hungerio I'm come, not as Saturio am I come.

TOXILUS
But you shall have something to eat; for now the creature-comforts

for the stomach are smoking away in-doors. I've ordered the remnants to be warmed.

SATURIO
Why, it's the proper thing for the gammon to be served up cold the day after.

TOXILUS
I've ordered it so to be done.

SATURIO
Any caviare?

TOXILUS
Get out — do you ask the question?

SATURIO
You have a capital notion of what's good.

TOXILUS
But do you at all remember the matter about which I was making mention to you yesterday?

SATURIO
I recollect; that the lamprey and the conger ought not to be made warm; for they are much better stripped of their meat when cold. But why do we delay to commence the engagement? While it's the morning, it befits all people to eat.

TOXILUS
It's almost too early in the morning.

SATURIO
The business that you begin to do in the morning, that same lasts on throughout the day.

TOXILUS
Prithee, do give your attention to this. For yesterday I mentioned it to

you, and entreated you to lend me six hundred didrachms.

SATURIO
I recollect it and am aware, both that you did ask me, and that I hadn't any to lend. A Parasite's good for nothing that has got money at home; he has a longing at once to begin upon an entertainment, and to gobble away at his own expense, if he has anything at home. A Parasite ought to be a right down needy Cynic; he ought to have a leather bottle, a strigil, an utensil, a pair of slippers, a cloak, and a purse; and in that a little of the needful, with which he may just cheer up the existence of his own household.

TOXILUS
I don't want money now; lend me your daughter.

SATURIO
By my troth, never to any person whatsoever have I lent her as yet.

TOXILUS
Not for that purpose which you are insinuating.

SATURIO
Why do you want her then?

TOXILUS
You shall know; because she's of a pretty and genteel figure.

SATURIO
Such is the fact.

TOXILUS
This Procurer *pointing to the house of DORDALUS* neither knows yourself nor your daughter.

SATURIO
How should any one know me, except him who finds me food?

TOXILUS

Such is the fact. This way you can find some money for me.

SATURIO
I' faith, I wish I could.

TOXILUS
Then do you allow me to sell her.

SATURIO
You to sell her?

TOXILUS
Why no, I'll depute another person to sell her, and to say that he is a foreigner; since it isn't six months since that Procurer removed hither from Megara.

SATURIO
The remnants are spoiling; this, however, can be done afterwards.

TOXILUS
Do you understand on what terms it can? Never, on my word, shall you eat here this day, so don't be mistaken, before you declare to me that you'll do this that I'm requesting; and unless you bring your daughter with you hither at once as soon as you can, by my faith, I'll cashier you from this squad. What now? What's the matter? Why don't you say what you will do?

SATURIO
I' troth, prithee sell even myself as well, if you like, so long as you sell me with my stomach full.

TOXILUS
If you are going to do this, do it.

SATURIO
For my part, I'll do what you desire,

TOXILUS

You act kindly. Make haste, be off home; cleverly tutor your daughter beforehand, instruct her cunningly, what she is to say, where she is to declare she was born, who were her parents, how she was kidnapped. But let her declare that she was born at a distance from Athens; and let her shed tears when she makes mention of it.

SATURIO
Now won't you hold your tongue? Three times more artful is she than you would have her be.

TOXILUS
I' troth, you say what's excellent. But do you know what you are to do? Get a tunic and a girdle, and bring a scarf and a broad-brimmed hat for him to wear who is to sell her to this Procurer ——

SATURIO
Well-capital!

TOXILUS
As though he were a foreigner.

SATURIO
I approve of it ——

TOXILUS
And do you bring your daughter cleverly drest up after a foreign fashion.

SAGARISTIO
"Où sont" the dresses?

TOXILUS
Borrow them of the chorus-leader. He ought to lend them; the Ædiles have contracted for them to be found.

SATURIO
I'll have them here just now. But I'm to be acquainted with nothing of these matters?

TOXILUS
I’ faith, nothing, in fact. But, when I’ve got the money, do you at once claim her of the Procurer.

SATURIO
Let him keep her for himself, if I don’t immediately carry her off from him.

TOXILUS
Be off and attend to this. *Exit SATURIO.* In the meantime, I want to send a boy to my mistress; that she may be of good courage, and that I shall manage it to-day. I’m talking too much at length. *Goes into the house.*

ACT II.

Enter SOPHOCLIDISCA and LEMNISELENE, from the house of DORDALUS.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
It were enough to tell an untaught, thoughtless, silly girl the same thing so many times over; really, in fact, I do imagine that I'm quite looked upon by you as a blockhead and a country booby. Although I do drink wine, still I'm not in the habit of swallowing down your commands together with it. I really had fancied that both myself and my ways had now been sufficiently proved by you; for, as for me, I've attended you now these five years; whereas, in that time, a cuckoo even, I do believe, if he had gone to school, could by now have been made to know his letters well; while, in the meantime, whether speaking or not speaking, you have not made yourself acquainted with my disposition. Can you not hold your tongue? Can you not cease advising me? I remember, and I know, and I understand, and I keep in mind; i' faith, you are in love, poor thing; on that account your mind's disturbed. I'll cause that that shall be calmed for you.

LEMNISELENE
Wretched is the person that's in love. *Goes into the house.*

SOPHOCLIDISCA
to herself . Good for nothing, indeed, he certainly is, who is in love with nothing. What need has that person of life? I ought to go, that I may prove obedient to my mistress; that through my aid she may the sooner become a free woman. I'll go meet this Toxilus, however; his ears I'll stuff with what has been enjoined upon me. *Stands aside.*

Enter, from the house, TOXILUS and PÆGNIUM.

TOXILUS
Are these things quite clear and certain to you — do you quite remember and understand them?

PÆG.
Better than you who have instructed me.

TOXILUS
Say you so, you whip-rascal?

PÆG.
I really do say so.

TOXILUS
What did I say then P

PÆG.
I'll tell it to her all correctly.

TOXILUS
I' faith, you don't know it.

PÆG.
Troth now, lay me a wager that I don't remember and know it all.

TOXILUS
Why, for my part, I'll lay a wager with you on this, whether you know your own self, how many fingers you have this day upon your hand.

PÆG.
Without hesitation — if you are desirous to lose.

TOXILUS
A fair truce rather let there be.

PÆG.
For that reason, then, do you let me go.

TOXILUS
I both bid and permit you. But I wish you so to attend to it, that you are back home while I'm thinking that you are there.

PÆG.
I'll do so. *Moves towards their own house.*

TOXILUS
Whither are you now going?

PÆG.
Home; that I may be at home while you are thinking that I am there.

TOXILUS
You are a rascal of a boy, and —— for this service I'll give you something to add to your savings.

PÆG.
I'm aware how want of shame is wont to be imputed to a master's word, and that masters cannot ever be compelled to appear before the judge on account of those promises.

TOXILUS
Be off now.

PÆG.
I'll give you reason to command me.

TOXILUS
But, Pægnium, take you care and give that letter to Lemniselene herself, and tell her what I bade you.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
apart . Do I delay to go whither I was sent?

PÆG.
I'm off.

TOXILUS
Then do be off; I'll off home. Take care and manage this business with attention. Fly post haste. *Goes into the house.*

PÆG.
That's what the ostrich is wont to do in the Circus He's off from here m-doors there. But who's this woman that's coming towards me?

SOPHOCLIDISCA
advancing . Surely this is Pægnimn.

PÆG.
This is Sophoclidisca, the private servant of her to whom I'm sent.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
aside . There's not a person this day that's reported to be more artful than this boy. I'll accost him.

PÆG.
At this bar I must come to a stop.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
Pægnium, my charmer of a boy, save you; how are you? How do you do?

PÆG.
Sophoclidisca, the Gods will favour me.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
Why "me?" Which of us?

PÆG.
I' faith, I don't know. But if they were to do as you deserve, by my troth they'd hold you in hate, and treat you but badly.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
Do leave off your abusive talking.

PÆG.
Since I'm saying just as you I'm talking to deserve, properly, not abusively.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
What are you about now?

PÆG.
Standing opposite to you, looking at a worthless woman.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
For my own part, assuredly, I do not know any more good-for-nothing boy than yourself.

PÆG.
What mischief do I do, or to what person do I speak abusively?

SOPHOCLIDISCA
I' faith, to every one that you have the opportunity.

PÆG.
Not an individual has ever thought so.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
But, i' faith, full many a one knows that so it is.

PÆG.
Heyday, indeed!

SOPHOCLIDISCA
Heyday, indeed!

PÆG.
According to your own disposition you judge of the ways of others.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
I certainly do confess that I'm just as befits one of a Procurer's household to be.

PÆG.
I've now had enough of your chattering.

SOPHOCLIDISCA

What say you? Do you plead guilty to what I take you to be?

PÆG.
If I were so, I should confess it.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
Be off then; you've got the victory.

PÆG.
Now then be off with you.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
Do you then tell me this — whither are you going?

PÆG.
Whither are you?

SOPHOCLIDISCA
Say you.

PÆG.
Say you.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
I was the first to ask.

PÆG.
Then you shall be the last to know.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
I'm going not far hence.

PÆG.
And I, indeed, not far.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
Whither then, you rascal?

PÆG.

Unless I know first of you, you shall never know this of me that you are enquiring.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
On my honor you shall never this day know before I've heard it of you.

PÆG.
Is such the fact?

SOPHOCLIDISCA
Is such the fact?

PÆG.
You are a worthless one.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
Rogue.

PÆG.
That befits me.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
Me then it does not befit.

PÆG.
What do you say? Are you quite determined, you hussy, to conceal whither you are going?

SOPHOCLIDISCA
And are you quite resolved to hide whither you are betaking yourself, you scoundrel?

PÆG.
You are giving answer to what I say like for like; be off with you then, since such is your determination. I don't care at all to know. Good-bye. *Moving.*

SOPHOCLIDISCA
Stop!

PÆG.
But I'm in a hurry.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
And, i' faith, I as well.

PÆG.
Have you got anything? *Pointing to her hand.*

SOPHOCLIDISCA
Have you anything? *Pointing likewise.*

PÆG.
Really nothing whatever.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
Show me your hand then.

PÆG.
showing his right hand . Is this the hand?

SOPHOCLIDISCA
Where is that other, the pilfering left hand?

PÆG.
hiding his left hand . Why, it is at home, d'ye see; I've not brought one hither.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
trying to seize his hand . You've got something, what it is I know not.

PÆG.
pushing her away . Don't be mauling me about you she-groper.

SOPHOCLIDISCA

But suppose I’m in love with you.

PÆG.
You employ your pains to no purpose.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
Why so?

PÆG.
Why, because you are in love with nothing at all, when you are in love with one who doesn’t return it.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
It befits these youthful looks and age to be on the watch for pleasure il good time; so that, when your hair comes to change its hue, you may not be always in a grovelling servitude. Why, really, as yet you are not eighty pounds in weight.

PÆG.
Still, that warfare is waged much more successfully by spirit than by weight. But I’m losing my pains.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
Why so?

PÆG.
Because I’m teaching those who know it all. But I’m loitering here.
Moves.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
taking hold of him . Do stop.

PÆG.
You are annoying to me.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
And so I shall be then, if I don’t find out whither you are betaking yourself.

PÆG.
To your house.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
And I to your house, i' faith.

PÆG.
Why thither?

SOPHOCLIDISCA
What's that to you?

PÆG.
standing before her . Why, you shan't go now, unless, in return, I know.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
You are teazing.

PÆG.
I choose to.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
Never, upon my faith, shall you wring this out of me, so as to prove yourself more artful than I am.

PÆG.
It's a misery to contend with you in artfulness.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
You are a mischievous baggage.

PÆG.
What is there for you to fear?

SOPHOCLIDISCA
The very same that there is for you.

PÆG.

Say then, what is it?

SOPHOCLIDISCA
But I'm forbidden to tell this to any person, and am instructed that all the dumb people are to speak of it before myself.

PÆG.
And most especially was I cautioned not to trust this to any person, so that all the dumb people were to mention this before myself.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
Still, do you do so; on giving our words, let's trust each other.

PÆG.
I know this — all procuresses are light of faith, and the weight of a water-gnat is not more light than is the word of a procurer.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
Tell me, there's a dear.

PÆG.
Tell me, there's a dear.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
I don't want to be your dear.

PÆG.
You'll easily prevail upon me in that.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
Keep it yourself.

PÆG.
And you be mum about this. *Showing her a letter.*

SOPHOCLIDISCA
It shall be kept a secret.

PÆG.

It shall not be known. *She shows him a letter.*

SOPHOCLIDISCA
I'm carrying this letter to Toxilus, your master.

PÆG.
Be off; he's there at home. And I am carrying this pinewood tablet sealed, to Lemniselene, your mistress.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
What's written there.

PÆG.
If you don't know, pretty much like yourself, I don't know, except soft words, perhaps.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
I'm off.

PÆG.
And I'll be off.

SOPHOCLIDISCA
Move on then. *They go into the respective houses.*

Enter SAGARISTO.

SAGARISTIO
to himself . To Jove the opulent, the renowned, the son of Ops, the strong, the mighty in power, who riches, hopes, kind plenty does bestow, joyously and gratefully do I offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving, inasmuch as in a friendly way they have bestowed for my friend this opportunity of satisfying his necessity and of borrowing the money, so that I can lend him aid in his need. Whereas I no more dreamed, or thought, or imagined that I should have this opportunity — that same has now fallen from heaven as it were. For my master has sent me to Eretria; he has given me the money to purchase some trained oxen for him; but he said that the fair would

take place seven days hence; a simpleton to trust this money to me whose propensity he knew; for this money I shall misapply in some other purpose: there were no oxen for me to buy. Now I'll both promote the success of my friend, and will give my inclination full enjoyment. The pleasures that belong to a long time will I serve up in a single day. Crack, crack it will be upon my back; I don't care. Now, to a person that is my friend I shall present these trained oxen from out of my purse; for this, in fact, is a delightful thing, handsomely to bite your thrice-dotted niggardly, antiquated, covetous, spiritless people, who against their servant seal up the saltcellar with the salt. It's a virtue, when occasion prompts, to hold them in contempt. What will he do to me? He'll order me to be beaten with stripes, the fetters to be put on. I may get a beating. Don't let him fancy that I shall go begging to him. Woe be unto him! Nothing new can now be inflicted upon me but what I have already experienced it. But see, here comes Pægnium, Toxilus's boy.

Enter PÆGNIUM, from the house of DORDALUS.

PÆG.
to himself . My task that was set me I've finished; now I'm hastening home.

SAGARISTIO
Stop, although you are in haste — Pægnium, listen to me.

PÆG.
You ought to buy a person, for you to desire to be obedient to you.
Moves on.

SAGARISTIO
Stop there, I say.

PÆG.
You'd be giving some trouble, I fancy, if I were to be owing you anything, who are now so troublesome.

SAGARISTIO

You rascal, will you look back then?

PÆG.
I am aware of what age I am; for that reason you shall get off for this abuse with impunity.

SAGARISTIO
Where is Toxilus, your master?

PÆG.
Wherever he pleases, and he don't ask your advice.

SAGARISTIO
Won't you tell me, then, where he is, you villain?

PÆG.
I don't know, I say, you elm-twig spoiler.

SAGARISTIO
You are abusive to your senior.

PÆG.
As you deserved it first, do you put up with it. My master bade me hold my labour at his bidding, my tongue in freedom.

SAGARISTIO
Will you not tell me, where is Toxilus?

PÆG.
I tell you that — you may go to perdition everlasting.

SAGARISTIO
This day you shall be flogged with a rope's end.

PÆG.
On your account, indeed, you cuckoo! I' faith, you carrion, if I were to give you a broken head, I shouldn't be afraid of that.

SAGARISTIO

I understand you, you've been up to some bad work just now.

PÆG.
So I have. What business is that to you? But I haven't, like yourself, all for nothing.

SAGARISTIO
Assurance!

PÆG.
I' faith, I certainly am; for I am assured that I shall be free; don't be hoping that you'll ever be so.

SAGARISTIO
Can't you cease your impertinence?

PÆG.
That which you are mentioning, you can't do yourself.

SAGARISTIO
Away with you to utter perdition.

PÆG.
And off home with you; for there it's all ready prepared for you.

SAGARISTIO
He summons me on my recognizances.

PÆG.
I only wish the sureties may be out of the way, so that you may get to prison.

SAGARISTIO
Why's this?

PÆG.
Aye, why is it?

SAGARISTIO

Still abusing me, rascal?

PÆG.
Why, inasmuch as you are a slave, it ought at least to be allowed a slave to abuse you.

SAGARISTIO
And is it so? Just look *holding up his fist* what I shall give you.

PÆG.
Nothing; for nothing have you.

SAGARISTIO
May all the Gods and Goddesses confound me, if I don't this very day, if I lay hold of you, fell you to the ground with blows.

PÆG.
I am your friend; I trust that what you wish may befall you, and that it may come to pass; if you fell me, may others make you feel yourself fixed to the cross before long.

SAGARISTIO
But you may the Gods and Goddesses —— You understand what I was going to say after that, if I hadn't been able to restrain my tongue. Can't you be off?

PÆG.
You drive me off with ease; for already my shadow's getting a whipping in-doors. *Goes into the house.*

SAGARISTIO
to himself . May the Gods and Goddesses confound that fellow! just like a crawling serpent he has got a double tongue, and is a wicked one. Upon my faith, I'm glad he's gone. *Going towards the door.* Open, you door. But look! he's coming from within, the person that I most especially wished to meet with.

Enter TOXILUS, from his MASTER'S house, followed by

SOPHOCLIDISCA.

TOXILUS
to SOPHOCLIDISCA . Tell her that it's now arranged whence the money is to come. Bid her be of good heart; tell her that I love her exceedingly. When she cheers up, then does she cheer me up. What I've told you to tell her, do you quite understand it?

SOPHOCLIDISCA
Better than your legs under-stand you, do I understand it.

TOXILUS
Make all haste, be off home. *SOPHOCLIDISCA goes into the house of DORDALUS.*

SAGARISTIO
apart . Now I'll make myself a perfect droll towards him; I'll carry myself with arms a-kimbo, and assume a lordly air. *Struts along.*

TOXILUS
But who's this that's walking like a two-handled jug?

SAGARISTIO
apart . I'll spit about me in a dignified style. *Spits about.*

TOXILUS
Why, surely this is Sagaristio. How are you, Sagaristio? How do you do? Is there any tiny hope in you as to that which I entrusted to you?

SAGARISTIO
in a lofty way . Step this way; it shall be seen to; I would have it done. Advance — move forward.

TOXILUS
What's this swelling here upon your neck? *Touches his neck.*

SAGARISTIO
It's a tumour; forbear to press it, for when any person touches it with

a rude hand, pain is the result.

TOXILUS
When did that first come upon you?

SAGARISTIO
To-day.

TOXILUS
You should order it to be lanced.

SAGARISTIO
I'm afraid to lance it before it's ripe, lest it should cause me more trouble.

TOXILUS
I'd like to examine your complaint. *Comes nearer.*

SAGARISTIO
retreatinq . Be off, and do be careful, will you, of the horns. TOX. Why so?

SAGARISTIO
Because a couple of oxen are here in the purse.

TOXILUS
Do let them out, please; don't starve them with hunger — do let them go to pasture.

SAGARISTIO
Why, I'm afraid that I mayn't be able to drive them back to their stall, lest they should wander.

TOXILUS
I'll drive them back; be of good heart,

SAGARISTIO
You shall be trusted then; I'll lend them you Follow this way, please

taking the purse from his neck ; in this there is the money which you were asking me for a short time since.

TOXILUS
What is it you say?

SAGARISTIO
My master has sent me to Eretria to purchase some oxen; at present my Eretria shall be this house of yours.

TOXILUS
You speak quite enchantingly; and I shall very soon return you all the money safe; for now I've arranged and put in readiness all my devices, in which way I'm to get this money out of this Procurer.

SAGARISTIO
So much the better.

TOXILUS
Both for the damsel to be set at liberty, and, still further, for himself to pay the money. But follow me; I have need of your assistance in this affair.

SAGARISTIO
Make use of it just as you please. *They go into the house.*

ACT III.

Enter SATURIO and his DAUGHTER, in the habit of a PERSIAN.

SATURIO
May this same matter turn out well for me, and for yourself, and for my stomach, and for everlasting victuals for it as well for all time to come; that I may have more than enough, a superfluity, and that it may outlast me. Follow me this way, my daughter, with the Gods' good leave. The matter to which we are to give our attention, you know, you remember, you understand; to you I have communicated all my designs. For that reason have I dressed you out after this fashion; young woman, to-day you are to be sold.

DAU.
Prithee, my dear father, although you do eagerly long for victuals at another's cost, are you for the sake of your appetite going to sell your own daughter?

SATURIO
It is a wonder, indeed, if I don't sell you, who are my own, for the sake of King Philip or Attalus, rather than my own.

DAU.
Whether do you regard me as your slave or as your daughter?

SATURIO
I' faith, that of the two which shall appear most for the interest of my stomach; it's my authority over you, I suppose, not yours over me.

DAU.
This power is yours, father; but still, although our circumstances are but very limited, it's better to pass our lives with frugality and moderation; for if disgrace is added to poverty, poverty will be more unendurable, our character more frail.

SATURIO

Why really you are impertinent.

DAU.
I am not, nor do I think that I am, when, though of youthful age, I give good advice to my father. For enemies carry about slander not in the form in which it took its rise.

SATURIO
Let them carry it about, and let them go to utter and extreme perdition. I don't value all their enmities any more than if an empty table were now set before me.

DAU.
Father, the scandal of men is everlasting; even then does it survive, when you would suppose it to be dead.

SATURIO
What? Are you afraid lest I should sell you?

DAU.
I am not afraid of that, father; but I wish you not to pretend to do so.

SATURIO
Then it's in vain you wish me not; this shall be done rather after my own fashion than yours.

DAU.
Shall be done!

SATURIO
What is the matter, now?

DAU.
Father, reflect upon these words: if a master has threatened punishment to a slave, although it is not intended to be, still, when the whip is taken up, while he is taking off his tunics, with what an amount of misery is he afflicted. Now, that which is not to be, I'm still in fear of.

SATURIO
Damsel or woman none will there ever be, but what she must be good for nothing, who is too wise to be giving satisfaction to her parents.

DAU.
Damsel and woman none can there be, but what she must be good for nothing, who holds her peace if she sees anything going on wrong.

SATURIO
‘Twere better for you to beware of a mischief.

DAU.
But if I cannot beware, what am I to do? For it’s as to yourself I wish to beware.

SATURIO
What, am I a mischief?

DAU.
You are not, nor is it becoming for me to say so; but for this purpose am I using my endeavours, that others may not say so who have that liberty.

SATURIO
Let each one say what he pleases; from this purpose I shall not be moved.

DAU.
But, could it be after my own way, you would be acting prudently, rather than foolishly.

SATURIO
It is my pleasure.

DAU.
I know that I must let it be your pleasure so far as I’m concerned; but it should not please you to be your pleasure, if I had my way.

SATURIO
Are you going to be obedient to your father's orders, or not?

DAU.
To be obedient.

SATURIO
Do you know then what I instructed you?

DAU.
Everything.

SATURIO
Both this, how you were stolen?

DAU.
I understand it perfectly well.

SATURIO
And who your parents were?

DAU.
I keep it in my memory. You cause me of necessity to be artful; but take you care, when you wish to give me in marriage, that this story doesn't cause the match to be given up.

SATURIO
Hold your tongue, simpleton. Do you not see the customs of people now-a-days, that marriage is easily effected here with a reputation of any kind? So long as there's a marriage-portion, no fault is reckoned as a fault.

DAU.
Then take you care, and let this occur to your thoughts, that I am without a fortune.

SATURIO
Take you care, please, how you say that. By my faith, through the

merits of the Gods and of my ancestors I'll say it, you must not say that you are without a fortune, who have a marriage-portion at home. Why look, I've got a whole carriage-full of books at home. If you carefully give your attention to this matter in which we are exerting ourselves, six hundred bon-mots shall be given you out of them as a fortune, all Attic ones, too; you shall not receive a single Sicilian one. With this for a fortune, you might safely marry a beggar even.

DAU.
Why, then, don't you take me, father, if you are going to take me anywhere? Either do you sell me, or do with me what you please.

SATURIO
You ask what's fair and right. Follow me this way.

DAU.
I'm obedient to your command. *They go into the house, to TOXILUS.*

Enter DORDALUS, from his house.

DORDALUS
to himself . I wonder what I'm to say my neighbour is going to do, who swore to me that he would pay the money to-day? But if he should not pay it, and this day go by, I shall have forfeited the money, he his oath. But the door there makes a noise. I wonder who's coming out of doors?

Enter TOXILUS, from his MASTER'S house, with a purse in his hand.

TOXILUS
speaking at the door to the PERSONS within . Take you care of that in-doors; I shall betake myself home just now.

DORDALUS
Toxilus, how are you?

TOXILUS

How now! — pimping filth mixed up with mud! How now! — public dung-heap! dirty, dishonest, lawless, enticer, disgrace to the public; you hawk after money, greedy and envious; you impudent, rapacious, craving fellow (in three hundred lines no person could run through your villanies), will you take the money? *Holding out the purse.* Take the money, will you, shameless fellow. Take hold of the money, will you. Are you going to take the money, then? Can I make you take the money, filth? *Keeps moving it away.* You didn't suppose that I should have had so much money — you, who didn't venture to trust me at all except upon oath?

DORDALUS
Do let me recover breath, so as to give you an answer. Fellow, dregs of the populace, you stable for she-slaves, you liberator of harlots, you surface for the lash, you wearer-out of the fetters, you citizen of the treadmill, you slave everlastingly, you gormandizer, glutton, pilferer, runaway, give me the money, will you. Give me the money, impudence. Can I get the money out of you? Give me the money, I say. Why don't you give me the money? Are you ashamed of nothing? You impersonation of slavery, a Procurer is asking money of you for the liberation of your mistress, so that all may hear it.

TOXILUS
Troth now, prithee, do hold your tongue. For sure your voice is in first-rate strength.

DORDALUS
I've got a tongue made for returning a compliment. Salt is provided for me at the same price as for yourself; Unless this tongue protects me, it shall never lick a bit of salt.

TOXILUS
I'll cease to be angry now. It was for this I blamed you, because you refused to trust me for the money.

DORDALUS
'Twas a wonder, indeed, that I didn't trust you, that you might do the

same to me that some of the bankers do. When you've entrusted them with anything, they immediately run more quickly away from the Forum than a hare, when, at the games, he's let out of the entrance of his cage.

TOXILUS
holding out the money . Take this, will you.

DORDALUS
Why don't you give it then?

TOXILUS
giving it . There will be here six hundred didrachms, full weight and counted; cause the damsel to be set at liberty, and bring her out here forthwith.

DORDALUS
I'll have her here this moment. I' faith, I don't know to whom now to give this money to be tested.

TOXILUS
Perhaps you are afraid to entrust it to any one's hands?

DORDALUS
Strange if I wasn't. More quickly, now-a-days, do bankers abscond from the Forum, than a wheel spins round in a race.

TOXILUS
pointing . Do you go that way, through the alleys, the back way to the Forum; let this damsel pass through the same way to our house, through the garden.

DORDALUS
I'll have her here this moment.

TOXILUS
But not in public view.

DORDALUS
Very discreet.

TOXILUS
To-morrow she must go to return thanks.

DORDALUS
I' faith, just so indeed.

TOXILUS
While you've been loitering, you might have got back. *Exit DORDALUS; TOXILUS goes into the house.*

ACT IV.

Enter TOXILUS.

TOXILUS
to himself . If you give attention to any matter with steadiness or with good management, that same is wont properly to thrive to your satisfaction. And, by my faith, pretty nearly according as each man gives attention to his business, in the same manner do the results finally ensure him success. If he is knavish or a rogue, the business turns out badly which he has commenced; but if he uses good management, it results profitably. Cleverly and skilfully did I commence upon this business; for that reason do I trust that it will turn out well for me. Now, I'll this day have the Procurer so hampered, that he shan't know himself which way to extricate himself. *Goes to the door.* Sagaristio, hallo! Come forth, and bring out the young woman, and that letter which I sealed for you, which you brought me all the way from Persia, from my master.

Enter SAGARISTIO and the DAUGHTER of SATURIO, from the house, each dressed in Persian costume.

SAGARISTIO
Have I delayed at all?

TOXILUS
Bravo! bravo! dressed out in splendid style. *To SAGARISTIO.* The tiara does finely set off your dress. Then, too, how beautifully does the slipper become this stranger damsel! But are you thoroughly up in your parts?

SAGARISTIO
Tragedians and Comedians have never been up so well.

TOXILUS
Troth, you are giving me kind assistance. Come, be off that way *pointing* , to a distance out of sight, and hold your tongue. When you

see me conversing with the Procurer, that will be the time to accost us; now be off, you, — away with you. *SAGARISTIO and the DAMSEL go aside, out of sight.*

Enter DORDALUS.

DORDALUS
to himself . The man to whom the Deities are propitious, in his way they throw some profit. For I this day have made a saving of two loaves daily; this way, she who this day was my slave is now her own; by his cash he has prevailed; this day then she'll be dining at the expense of another, she'll be tasting nothing of mine. Am I not a worthy man, am I not a courteous citizen, who this day have made the extensive state of Attica still larger, and increased it by a female citizen? But how obliging have I been to-day! To how many have I given credit, and have from no person taken surety; so readily did I give credit to all: and I don't fear that of those whom I've trusted to-day any one will forswear himself against me upon trial. I wish from this day forth to be honest — a thing that never will be and never was.

TOXILUS
apart . This fellow, this very day, by clever contrivances, I'll catch in a springe; and so the snare is cunningly laid for him; I'll accost the fellow. *Aloud.* What are you about? DOR. Giving credit.

TOXILUS
Whence do you betake yourself, Dordalus?

DORDALUS
I'm going to give you credit.

TOXILUS
May the Gods grant whatever you may desire. How now, have you given the damsel her liberty by this?

DORDALUS
I'm going to give you credit, i' faith, I'm going to give you credit, I

repeat.

TOXILUS
Are you now increased in number by one freed-woman?

DORDALUS
You worry me to death. Why, I tell you that I'll give you credit.

TOXILUS
Tell me in sober truth, is she now at liberty?

DORDALUS
Go, go to the Forum, to the Prætor; make all enquiries, since you don't choose to give me credit. She is at liberty, I say. Do you hear me at all?

TOXILUS
May all the Deities bless you then. And never from this time forward, will I wish to you or yours what you don't wish.

DORDALUS
Be off: don't be swearing that. I quite believe you.

TOXILUS
Where is your freed-woman now?

DORDALUS
At your house.

TOXILUS
Do you say so? Is she at our house?

DORDALUS
I do say so, I tell you; she is at your house, I say.

TOXILUS
So may the Deities favour me, for this thing many blessings from me are in store for you: for there's a certain matter, which I refrained

from mentioning to you; now I'll disclose it, and from it you can make a very large profit. I'll give you cause to remember me so long as you exist.

DORDALUS
My ears are wanting some kind deeds by way of assistance to these kind words.

TOXILUS
It's only your deserts, that I should do as you deserve. And that you may know that I will do so, take this letter *showing him a letter* ; read it over.

DORDALUS
What has this got to do with me?

TOXILUS
Why yes, it bears reference to yourself, and it does relate to you. But it has just now been brought me from Persia, from my master.

DORDALUS
When?

TOXILUS
Not long since.

DORDALUS
What does it say?

TOXILUS
Make enquiry of its own self: it will tell you itself.

DORDALUS
Give it me, then. *Taking it from TOXILUS.*

TOXILUS
But read it aloud.

DORDALUS
Be silent while I read it over.

TOXILUS
I'll not utter a word.

DORDALUS
reading . "Timarchides sends health to Toxilus and all the family. If you are well, I am glad; I am quite well, and carrying on my business, and am making money; and I am not able to return home for these eight months, for there is some business which detains me here; the Persians have taken Chrysopolis, a city of Arabia, full of good things, and an ancient town; there the booty is being collected, that a public auction may be made; this matter causes me to be absent from home. I wish attention and hospitality to be shown to the person who brings this letter to you. Attend to what he wants; for at his own house at home he has shown me the greatest attentions." What has it to do with me or my welfare, what matters the Persians are about, or what your master is doing?

TOXILUS
Hold your tongue, silly babbler; you don't know what blessing awaits you. It's in vain that Fortune is ready to light for you her torch that leads to profit.

DORDALUS
What Fortune is this that leads to profit?

TOXILUS
pointing to the letter . Ask that which knows: I know about as much as yourself, except that I was the first to read it through. But as you've begun, learn the matter from the letter.

DORDALUS
You counsel me aright. Keep silence.

TOXILUS
Now you'll come to that which does relate to your interest.

DORDALUS
reading on . “The person that brings this letter, has taken with him a well-bred female of engaging charms, who has been stolen, and brought from the inmost parts of Arabia; I wish you to take charge of her that she may be sold there; but he who makes purchase of her, must buy her at his own risk; nobody will promise or give a warranty. Take you care that he receives money full weight and counted. Pay attention to this, and give attention that the stranger is attended to. Farewell.”

TOXILUS
What then? After you have read over what has been committed to the wax, do you believe me now?

DORDALUS
Where now is this stranger that brought this letter?

TOXILUS
He’ll be here just now, I believe; he has sent for her from the ship.

DORDALUS
I don’t want any lawsuits or quirks at all. Why should I be laying out so much money at such a distance? Unless I get her on warranty, what need have I of this purchase?

TOXILUS
Will you, or will you not, hold your tongue? I never did believe you to be such a blockhead. What are you afraid of?

DORDALUS
I’ faith, I really am afraid; I’ve experienced it now so many times, and it will not befall me without having already experienced it, to be getting stuck in such a quagmire.

TOXILUS
There seems to be no risk.

DORDALUS

I know that; but I’m afraid about myself.

TOXILUS
It matters nothing whatever to me, so far as I’m concerned; it’s for your sake I mentioned it, that I might at the earliest moment give you an opportunity of advantageously purchasing her.

DORDALUS
I return you thanks; but it’s a nicer thing for you to become wise through others, than for others through yourself.

TOXILUS
Surely no person can follow after her from the inmost parts of Arabia. Will you make purchase of her, then?

DORDALUS
Only let me see the commodity.

TOXILUS
You say what’s fair. But look, most à propos, the stranger is coming himself, who brought this letter hither.

DORDALUS
pointing down the side-scene . Is that he?

TOXILUS
That’s he.

DORDALUS
And is that the girl that was stolen?

TOXILUS
I know just about as well as yourself, except that I have seen her. Upon my faith, she certainly is genteel looking, whoever she is.

DORDALUS
Faith, she has pretty regular features.

TOXILUS
aside . With what contempt the hang-dog does speak of her. *To DORDALUS.* Let's examine her beauty in silence.

DORDALUS
I approve of your advice. *They stand aside.*

Enter SAGARISTIO and the DAUGHTER of SATURIO, dressed as PERSIANS.

SAGARISTIO
Doesn't Athens seem to you a rich and opulent place?

DAU.
I've seen the appearance of the city; the customs of the people I've observed but little of.

TOXILUS
apart . At the very outset has she forborne to make a wise remark.

DORDALUS
apart . I cannot by her very first words form an estimate of her wisdom.

SAGARISTIO
What as to that which you have seen? How does the city seem fortified to you, with its wall?

DAU.
If the inhabitants have good morals, I think it's properly fortified. If Perfidiousness, and Peculation, and Avarice are exiled from the city, Envy in the fourth place, Ambition in the fifth, Scandal in the sixth, Perjury in the seventh.

TOXILUS
apart . Bravo!

DAU.

Idleness in the eighth, Injustice in the ninth, Immorality, which is the very worst in its attack, in the tenth. If these things shall not be away from it, a wall a hundred-fold were too little for preserving its interests.

TOXILUS
apart . What say you? DOR. *apart* . What do you mean?

TOXILUS
apart . You are among those ten companions; you must depart in banishment from here.

DORDALUS
apart . Why so? TOX. *apart* . Because you are perjured.

DORDALUS
apart . Really she has spoken not without some cleverness.

TOXILUS
apart . That's to your advantage, I say; you buy her.

DORDALUS
apart . Upon my faith, the more I look at her, the more she pleases me.

TOXILUS
apart . If you do buy her, immortal Gods, no other Procurer will be more wealthy than yourself; at your will you'll be turning people out of their estates and households; you'll be transacting business with men of the highest rank; they'll be longing for your favour; they'll be coming to make merry at your house.

DORDALUS
apart . But I shan't allow them to be admitted.

TOXILUS
apart . But then at night they'll be singing before your threshold, and be burning down your door; do you at once order your house to be

fastened with a door of iron, change for a house of iron, fix in thresholds of iron, a bar of iron and a ring; if you don't prove sparing of the iron, do you order thick fetters of iron to be rivetted upon yourself.

DORDALUS
apart . Away to utter perdition! TOX. *pushing him* . Go then, make purchase of her, and follow my advice.

DORDALUS
apart . Only let me know how much he asks for her.

TOXILUS
apart . Should you like me to call him here?

DORDALUS
apart . I'll go to him.

TOXILUS
accosting him . How fare you, guest?

SAGARISTIO
I'm come; I've brought her *pointing to the DAMSEL* , as I just now said I would. For yesterday at night the ship arrived in harbour: I want her to be sold, if she can; if she cannot, I intend to go away from here as soon as I can.

DORDALUS
Greetings to you, young man.

SAGARISTIO
If indeed I shall dispose of her at her own price ——

TOXILUS
pointing to DORDALUS . Why, you'll either sell her handsomely with him for your purchaser, or you can to no one.

SAGARISTIO

Are you a friend of his?

TOXILUS
In the same measure as all the Divinities who inhabit the heavens.

DORDALUS
Then you are an assured enemy to me; for to the race of procurers no God was ever so kind as to prove propitious.

SAGARISTIO
Attend to the business in hand. Have you any need to purchase her?

DORDALUS
If you have need for her to be sold, I, too, have need to purchase her; if you have no sudden occasion to sell, just in the same degree have I to buy.

SAGARISTIO
State a sum; name a price.

DORDALUS
The commodity is your own; it's for you to name a sum.

TOXILUS
to SAGARISTIO . He asks what's right.

SAGARISTIO
Do you wish to buy at a bargain?

DORDALUS
Do you wish to sell at a handsome profit?

TOXILUS
I' faith, I'm sure that both of you would like to do so.

DORDALUS
Come, boldly name your price.

SAGARISTIO

I tell you beforehand; no one will dispose of her to you on warranty. Do you so understand it, then?

DORDALUS
I understand it. Declare what's the lowest price at which you'll offer her, for which she may be taken by the purchaser.

TOXILUS
Hold your tongue, hold your tongue. Really, upon my faith, you are a very simple man, with your childish ways.

DORDALUS
Why so?

TOXILUS
Why because I wish you first to make enquiries of the damsel which relate to your interest.

DORDALUS
And really, upon my faith, you've given me no bad advice. Look at that, will you. I, an experienced Procurer, had almost fallen into the pit, if you had not been here. How important a point it is to have a person your friend at hand when you are about anything.

TOXILUS
I want you to make enquiry of her, of what family or in what country she was born, or of what parents, so that you mayn't say that you've bought her at hazard by my persuasion or suggestion.

DORDALUS
On the contrary, I approve of your counsel, I tell you.

TOXILUS
to SAGARISTIO . Unless it's troublesome, he's desirous to make a few enquiries of her.

SAGARISTIO
By all means; at his own pleasure.

TOXILUS
to DORDALUS . Why do you delay? Go to him yourself; and do you yourself ask him as well, that you may be allowed to make such enquiries as you please; although he has told me that he gives permission to do so of her, still I had rather that you yourself should go to him, that he mayn't be holding you in contempt.

DORDALUS
You give me very proper advice. *Accosting SAGARISTIO.* Stranger, I should like to ask some questions of her. *Pointing to the YOUNG WOMAN.*

SAGARISTIO
From earth to heaven, whatever you like.

DORDALUS
Just bid her to step this way to me.

SAGARISTIO
to the YOUNG WOMAN . Go you, then, and humour him. *To DORDALUS.* Make enquiry, question her, just as you please.

TOXILUS
to DORDALUS . Well, well, get on then; make your preparations. *Aside to the YOUNG WOMAN.* Take you care to commence with a good omen.

DAU.
The auspices are favourable.

TOXILUS
Aside to the YOUNG WOMAN . Hold your tongue. *To DORDALUS.* Step you aside here; I will now conduct her to you.

DORDALUS
Do what you think is most for my interest.

TOXILUS

to the YOUNG WOMAN, who advances with him . Follow me. *To DORDALUS.* I've brought her, if you are wishful to make any enquiries of her.

DORDALUS
But I want you to be present.

TOXILUS
I cannot do otherwise than pay attention to this stranger *pointing to SAGARISTIO* , whom my master bade me show courtesy to. What if he doesn't choose that I should be present together with you?

SAGARISTIO
Yes, but do come.

TOXILUS
to DORDALUS . I'll lend you my assistance, then.

DORDALUS
You're lending it yourself as well when you are assisting your friend.

TOXILUS
Examine her. *Aside to the YOUNG WOMAN.* Hark you, be on your guard.

DAU.
aside . Enough has been said to me. *Aloud.* Although I am a slave, I know my duty, so that whatever he asks I'll tell the truth as I have heard it.

TOXILUS
pointing to DORDALUS . Young woman, this is an honorable man.

DAU.
I believe you.

TOXILUS
You'll not be long in servitude with him.

DAU.
I' faith, and so I trust, if my parents do their duty.

DORDALUS
I do not wish you to be surprised, if we make enquiries of you about either your country or your parents.

DAU.
Why should I be surprised at that, my dear sir? My state of servitude has forbidden me to be surprised at any misfortune of my own.

TOXILUS
aside . May the Gods confound her! so cunning and crafty is she. She has got shrewd sense: how readily she does say what's needed.

DORDALUS
What's your name?

TOXILUS
aside . Now I'm afraid she'll be tripping.

DAU.
My name was Lucris in my own country.

TOXILUS
The name and the omen are worth any price. Why don't you make purchase of her? *Aside.* I was greatly afraid that she would be tripping. She has got herself free.

DORDALUS
If I make purchase of you, I trust that you'll prove Lucris to myself as well.

TOXILUS
If you do make purchase of her, never, on my word, do I think that she'll remain your slave throughout the month.

DORDALUS

And so indeed I'd hope, i' faith.

TOXILUS
That what you wish may come to pass, employ your own energies. *Aside.* In nothing even as yet has she made a slip.

DORDALUS
Where were you born?

DAU.
According to what my mother told me,in the kitchen, in a corner on the left hand.

TOXILUS
to DORDALUS . This woman will prove a lucky Courtesan for you; she has been born in a warm spot, where full oft there is an abundance of all good things. *Aside.* The Procurer was taken in when he asked where she was born. She has played him off nicely.

DORDALUS
But I ask of you, what is your country?

DAU.
What should be mine but that where I now am?

DORDALUS
But this I'm asking, what was?

DAU.
Everything that was, do I consider as nothing, since it was, and is not now. Just like a man when he has breathed forth his spirit; why enquire of him who he was?

TOXILUS
aside . So may the Deities kindly favour me, right cleverly. And yet I really do pity her.

DORDALUS

But still, young woman, come, tell me at once which is your country? Why are you silent?

DAU.
For my part, I really am telling you my country. Since I'm in servitude here, this is my country.

TOXILUS
Do cease now making enquiries about that. Don't you see that she's unwilling to declare, lest you should recall to her the remembrance of her misfortunes?

DORDALUS
What's the matter? Is your father in captivity?

DAU.
Not in captivity; but what he had, he has lost.

TOXILUS
She will prove to be born of a good family; she knows how to say nothing but the truth.

DORDALUS
Who was he? Tell me his name?

DAU.
Why should I tell of him, wretched man, who he was? For the present 'twere proper for him to be called Miserable, and me Miserable.

DORDALUS
What kind of a person was he considered by the public?

DAU.
Not a person more acceptable; slaves and free persons all liked him.

TOXILUS
You do speak of a miserable man, inasmuch as he's almost lost

himself, and has lost his friends.

DORDALUS
I shall purchase her, I think.

TOXILUS
What, still " I think?"

DORDALUS
I imagine that she's of a noble family.

TOXILUS
You'll make riches by her.

DORDALUS
May the Gods grant it so.

TOXILUS
Do you only buy her.

DAU.
Now this I tell you: my father will be here directly, when he knows that I've been sold, and will ransom me thus separated from him.

TOXILUS
What say you now Don. What's the matter?

TOXILUS
Do you hear what she says?

DAU.
For although his fortunes are broken, he still has friends. *Pretends to cry.*

DORDALUS
Don't weep, please; you'll soon be at liberty, if — you have sweethearts enough. Would you like to belong to me?

DAU.

So long, indeed, as I don't belong to you too long. I'd like.

TOXILUS
How well she does keep in mind her liberty. She'll be producing you fine hauls. About it, if you are about it. I'll go back to him. *To the YOUNG WOMAN.* Do you follow me. To

SAGARISTIO
) I've brought her back to you.

DORDALUS
Young man, are you disposed to sell her?

SAGARISTIO
I'd like it, rather than lose her.

DORDALUS
Do you compress it then into a few words; state the price at which she's offered.

SAGARISTIO
I'll do so, as I see you wish it. Take her for a hundred minæ.

DORDALUS
That's too much.

SAGARISTIO
For eighty.

DORDALUS
That's too much.

SAGARISTIO
There can't a didrachm be abated from the price which I shall now name.

DORDALUS
What is it, then? Speak out at once and name it.

SAGARISTIO
At your own risk, she's offered at sixty minæ.

DORDALUS
Toxilus, what am I to do?

TOXILUS
aside to DORDALUS . The Gods and Goddesses are pursuing you with their vengeance, you rogue, for not making haste to purchase her.

DORDALUS
Take them, then.

TOXILUS
Well done, you have got a rich prize! Be off, and fetch the money out here. On my faith, she's not dear at three hundred minæ.

SAGARISTIO
Hark you, for her clothing there'll be ten minæ added to this as well.

DORDALUS
Yes, be deducted, not added.

TOXILUS
Do hold your tongue, will you; don't you see that he's seeking an excuse to have the bargain broken? Why don't you be off and fetch the money?

DORDALUS
to TOXILUS, as he is going . Hark you, do you keep an eye upon him.

TOXILUS
Why don't you then go in?

DORDALUS
I'll go and fetch the money. *Goes into his house.*

The DAUGHTER of SATURIO, TOXILUS, and SAGARISTIO.

TOXILUS
Upon my word, young lady, you have given us praiseworthy aid, good. and wise, and sensible.

DAU.
If for good persons anything good is done, the same is wont to be both important and pleasing.

TOXILUS
Do you hear, you Persian, when you've got the money of him, do you pretend as though you are going straight to the ship.

SAGARISTIO
Don't teach me.

TOXILUS
Betake yourself back again to our house, that way *pointing* down the lane through the garden.

SAGARISTIO
You are naming what's intended to be done.

TOXILUS
But don't you at once be changing your quarters with the money, I recommend you.

SAGARISTIO
What's worthy of yourself, do you take to be worthy of me?

TOXILUS
Hold your tongue; lower your voice; the spoil is coming out of doors.

Re-enter DORDALUS, from his house, with a bag of money.

DORDALUS
Sixty minæ of assayed silver are here *pointing at the bag* , less two

didrachms.

SAGARISTIO
What's the meaning of those didrachms?

DORDALUS
To pay for this bag, or else to cause it to come home again.

SAGARISTIO
Lest you mightn't be enough of a Procurer, did you fear, wretched, filthy, avaricious creature, that you might lose your bag?

TOXILUS
Pray, let him alone; since he is a Procurer, he isn't doing anything surprising.

DORDALUS
I've judged from omens that I should make some profit to-day; nothing is of value so small to me, but that I grudge to lose it. Come, take this, will you? *Holds out the bag to SAGARISTIO.*

SAGARISTIO
Place it around my neck, if it is not too much trouble.

DORDALUS
Certainly, it shall be done. *Hangs it round his neck.*

SAGARISTIO
Is there anything else that you wish with me?

TOXILUS
Why are you in such haste?

SAGARISTIO
My business is of that nature; the letters that have been entrusted me, I want to deliver; and I've heard that my twin-brother's a slave here; I wish to be off to seek him out, and redeem him.

TOXILUS
And, i' faith, you've not badly put me in mind of it; I think that I've seen here one very like you in figure, of just the same size.

SAGARISTIO
Why, it must surely be my brother.

DORDALUS
But we'd like to know what your name is.

TOXILUS
What does it matter to us to know?

SAGARISTIO
Listen then, that you may know; my name is Lying- speakerus, Virgin-seller-onides, Trifle-great-talker-ides, Silver-screwer-outides, Thee-worthy-to-talk-to-ides, Wheedler-out-of-coin-ides, What-he-has-once-got-hold-of-ides, Never-again-part-with-it-ides.

DORDALUS
Dear me; upon my faith, this name of yours is written in many ways.

SAGARISTIO
Such is the way with the Persians; we have long names of many words twisted together. Do you wish for anything else?

DORDALUS
Farewell!

SAGARISTIO
And you farewell; for my mind's aboard ship already.

DORDALUS
You'd better have gone to-morrow, and dined here to-day. *SAGARISTIO is going.* Farewell! *(Exit SAGARISTIO.)*

TOXILUS, DORDALUS, and the DAUGHTER of SATURIO.

TOXILUS
Since that fellow's gone, I may say here whatever I please. This day has assuredly shone a gainful one for you; for you've not been buying her, but making a clear profit of her.

DORDALUS
He indeed quite understands what he has been about, in having sold me a stolen woman at my own risk; he has got the money, and taken himself off. How do I know now whether she mayn't be claimed at once? Whither am I to follow him? To the Persians, nonsense.

TOXILUS
I imagined that my services would be a cause for thankfulness with you.

DORDALUS
Why, yes, indeed, I do return you thanks, Toxilus, for I found that you zealously gave me your assistance.

TOXILUS
What, I, to you?

DORDALUS
In seriousness, yes. By-the-bye, I forgot just now to give some directions in-doors, which I intended to be given. Do keep watch on her. *Pointing to the YOUNG WOMAN.*

TOXILUS
She's all safe, for certain *DORDALUS goes into his house.*

DAU.
My father's delaying now.

TOXILUS
What, if I put him in mind?

DAU.
It's full time.

TOXILUS
going to the side of the stage, and calling aloud . Hallo! Saturio, come forward; now's the opportunity for taking vengeance on the enemy. *SATURIO.*

SAGARISTIO
See, here I am. Have I delayed at all?

TOXILUS
Well, go you off there at a distance out of sight; keep silence. When you see me talking to the Procurer, do you then make a row.

SATURIO
A word's enough to the wise. *He withdraws out of sight.*

Enter DORDALUS, from his house, with a whip in his hand.

DORDALUS
On coming into the house, I lashed them all with the whip; my house and furniture are in such a dirty state.

TOXILUS
Are you returned at last?

DORDALUS
I'm returned.

TOXILUS
Assuredly, I have this day done you many services.

DORDALUS
I confess it; I give you thanks.

TOXILUS
Do you want anything else with me?

DORDALUS
That happiness may. attend you.

TOXILUS
I’ faith, all that indeed I shall surely enjoy at home now; for I shall now go take my place at table with your freed-woman. You, when I’m gone ——

DORDALUS
Why don’t you hold your tongue? I know what it is you want.
TOXILUS goes into the house.

Enter SATURIO, in a seeming rage.

SATURIO
If I don’t prove the destruction of that fellow ——

DORDALUS
I’m undone.

SATURIO
And most luckily there he is, himself, before the door.

DAU.
running towards him . Most welcome, my dear father. *She embraces him.*

SATURIO
Welcome, my child.

DORDALUS
aside . That Persian has utterly ruined me!

DAU.
to DORDALUS . This is my father.

DORDALUS
Ha! — what? — father? I’m utterly undone! Why then, in my misery, do I delay to bewail my sixty minæ?

SATURIO

By my faith, you scoundrel, I'll give you cause to bewail your own self as well.

DORDALUS
I'm undone!

SATURIO
Come, walk before a magistrate, Procurer.

DORDALUS
Why do you summon me before a magistrate?

SATURIO
I'll tell you there, before the Prætor. But before the magistrate I summon you.

DORDALUS
Don't you summon a witness?

SATURIO
What, for your sake, hangdog, am I to be touching the ear of any being that's free — you, who are here trading in persons, free citizens?

DORDALUS
Let me but speak ——

SATURIO
I won't.

DORDALUS
Hear me.

SATURIO
I'm deaf. Walk on — follow me this way *dragging him* , you villanous mouser after maidens! Follow after me this way, my daughter, to the Prætor.

DAU.
I'll follow. *Exit SATURIO, dragging DORDALUS, his DAUGHTER following.*

ACT V.

Enter TOXILUS, from the house.

TOXILUS
to himself . The foe subdued, the citizens safe, the state in tranquillity, peace fully ratified, the war finished, our affairs prospering, the army and the garrisons untouched; inasmuch, Jupiter, and all you other Deities potent in the heavens, you have kindly aided us, for that reason do I return and give you thanks; because I have been fully revenged upon my foe. Now, for this reason, among my partners will I divide and allot the spoil. *To the SLAVES in the house, who obey his orders.* Come out of doors; here, before the entrance and the door, I wish to entertain my commates with hospitality. Lay down the couches here; place here the things that are usual. Here am I determined that my eagle shall be first pitched; from which spot I'll cause all to become merry, joyous, and delighted, by the aid of whom those things which I wished to be effected have been rendered for me easy to be done; for worthless is the man who knows how to receive a kindness, and knows not how to return it. *Enter LEMNISELENE, SAGARISTIO, and PÆGNIUM, from the house.*

LEMNISELENE
My Toxilus, why am I without you? And why are you without me?

TOXILUS
Come then, my own one, approach me, and embrace me, please.

LEMNISELENE
Indeed I will. *Embraces him.*

TOXILUS
O, nothing is there more sweet than this. But, there's a dear, apple of my eye, why don't we at once betake us to the couches?

LEMNISELENE
Everything that you wish, the same do I desire.

TOXILUS
It's mutual. Come, come-come then. You, Sagaristio, recline in the upper place.

SAGARISTIO
I don't at all care for it. Give ne but equal shares in what I've earned.

TOXILUS
All in good time.

SAGARISTIO
For me that "good time" is too late.

TOXILUS
Attend to the matter in hand. Take your place; this delightful day let's keep as a joyous birthday of mine. *To the SLAVES.* Bring water for our hands; arrange the table. *The SLAVES obey, and the GUESTS take their places.* To you, blooming one *addressing LEMNISELENE* , I give this blooming wreath. *Places a garland on her head.* You shall be our governess here. Come, lad, commence these games from the top with a round of seven cups. Bestir your hands; make haste. Pægnium, you are slow in giving me the cups; really, do give them. Here's luck to me, luck to you, luck to my mistress, luck to us all. This much wished-for day has been sent me by the Gods this day, inasmuch as I am allowed to embrace you a free woman. *He drinks.*

LEMNISELENE
By your own agency it was effected. *Giving him the cup.* This cup my hand presents to you, as it becomes a mistress to her love.

TOXILUS
Give it me.

LEMNISELENE
Take it. *Gives him the cup.*

TOXILUS
Here's luck to him who envies me, and to him who rejoices in this

joy. *Drinks.*

Enter DORDALUS, at a distance.

DORDALUS
to himself . Those who are, and those who shall be, and those who have been, and those who are to be hereafter, all of them I singly by far surpass, in being the most wretched of men alive. I'm undone, ruined quite! This day has shone upon me the most unfortunate of days; that ruiner Toxilus has so outmanœuvred me, and has so laid waste my property! A whole cartload of silver, to my misfortune, have I upset, and lost, and have not that for which I did upset it. May all the Deities utterly confound that Persian, and all Persians, and all persons besides! in such a way has Toxilus, the wretch, conjured this up against me. Because I didn't trust him for the money, for that reason has he contrived this plan against me, — a fellow, that, by my faith, if I only live, I'll bring to torture and the fetters; if, indeed, his master ever returns here, as I trust he will. *Catching sight of the REVELLERS.* But what is it I see? Do look at that. What play is this? By my troth, they're carousing here surely. I'll accost them. *He goes up to them.* O worthy sir *to TOXILUS* , my greetings to you — you, too *to LEMNISELENE* , my worthy freed-woman.

TOXILUS
Why surely this is Dordalus.

SAGARISTIO
Invite him, then, to come.

TOXILUS
to DORDALUS . Come here, if you like. *Aside.* Come, let's sing his praises. *Aloud.* Dordalus, most delightful fellow, welcome, here's a place for you; take your place here *pointing to a couch* . Bring water for his feet *to the SLAVES.* Are you going to give it, lad? *Is going to pat DORDALUS on the shoulder.*

DORDALUS
Don't you, please, be touching me with a single finger, lest I should

fell you to the ground, you villain.

PÆG.
holding up a cup . And I this very instant will be striking out your eye with this tankard.

DORDALUS
What do you say, gallows, you wearer-away of the whip? How have you imposed upon me to-day? Into what embarrassments have you thrown me? How have I been baulked about the Persian?

TOXILUS
You'll be off with your abuse from here, if you are wise.

DORDALUS
to LEMNISELENE . But, my worthy freed-woman, you knew of this, and concealed it from me.

LEMNISELENE
It's folly for a person who can enjoy himself to turn to brawling in preference. 'Twere more proper for you to arrange about those matters another time.

DORDALUS
My heart's in flames.

TOXILUS
Give him a goblet, then; put out the fire, if his heart's in flames, that his head mayn't be burnt.

DORDALUS
You're making sport of me, I find.

TOXILUS
Would you like a new playfellow for you, Pægnium? *Pointing at DORDALUS.* But sport on as you are wont, as this is a place of freedom. *PÆGNIUM struts about round DORDALUS.* O rare! you do stalk in a princely style and right merrily.

PÆG.
It befits me to be merry, and I've a longing to play this Procurer some pranks, since he's deserving of it.

TOXILUS
As you commenced, proceed.

PÆG.
striking him . Take that, Procurer!

DORDALUS
I'm undone! he has almost knocked me down!

PÆG.
Hey — be on your guard again. *Strikes at him.*

DORDALUS
Sport on just as you please, while your master's away from here.

PÆG.
skipping around him . Don't you see how obedient I am to your request? But why, on the other hand, are not you obedient to my request as well, and why don't you do that which I advise you?

DORDALUS
What's that?

PÆG.
Do you take a stout rope for yourself, and go hang yourself.

DORDALUS
shaking his stick . Take you care, will you, that you don't touch me, lest I give you a heavy return with this walking-stick. PÆG. Make use of it; I give you leave.

TOXILUS
Come, come, Pægnium, put an end to it.

DORDALUS
By my faith, I'll utterly destroy you all.

TOXILUS
But he, who dwells above us, wishes you all ill, and will do you all ill. It's not they that tell you so, but I.

TOXILUS
Come *to the SLAVES* , carry round the honied wine; give us drink in goblets quite full: it's a long time now since we last drank; we've been athirst too long.

DORDALUS
May the Gods grant that you may drink that which may never pass through you.

PÆG.
I cannot forbear, Procurer, from at least dancing a hornpipe for you, which Hegea formerly composed. But just look if it quite pleases you. *He dances.*

SAGARISTIO
rising . I'd like also to repeat that one which Diodorus formerly composed in Ionia. *Goes close to DORDALUS.*

DORDALUS
I'll be doing you a mischief, if you are not off!

SAGARISTIO
Still muttering, impudence? If you provoke me, I'll just now be bringing you the Persian again.

DORDALUS
I' faith, I'm silenced now. Why, you are the Persian that has been fleecing me to the quick!

TOXILUS
Hold your tongue, simpleton; this is his twin-brother.

DORDALUS
Is it he? Tox. Aye, and a very twin of twins.

DORDALUS
May the Gods and Goddesses rack both yourself and your twin-brother.

SAGARISTIO
Him, you mean, who has been ruining you; for I don't deserve anything.

DORDALUS
But still, what he deserves, I hope that that may prove to your undoing.

TOXILUS
to SAGARISTIO . Come, if you like, let's have some sport with this fellow, unless he isn't deemed worthy of it.

SAGARISTIO
Just now it's right.

LEMNISELENE
aside . But it isn't proper for me.

TOXILUS
aside . For the reason, I suppose, that he made no difficulties when I purchased you.

LEMNISELENE
aside . But still ——

TOXILUS
aside . No "still." Beware, then, of a mishap, will you, and obey me. It becomes you to be heedful of my orders; for, i' faith, had it not been for me and my protection, he would before long have made a street-walker of you. But such are some of those who have gained their freedom, unless they thwart their patron, they don't appear to

themselves free enough, or wise enough, or honest enough, unless they oppose him, unless they abuse him, unless they are found ungrateful to him who has been kind.

LEMNISELENE
aside . I' troth, your kindnesses command me to pay obedience to your commands.

TOXILUS
aside . I clearly am your patron, who paid the money for you to that man *pointing to DORDALUS* ; in return for that, I choose that he shall be made sport of.

LEMNISELENE
aside . For my part, I'll do my utmost.

DORDALUS
For sure, these persons are consulting to do something, I know not what, to injure me.

SAGARISTIO
Hark you.

TOXILUS
What do you say?

SAGARISTIO
Is this person here, Dordalus the Procurer, who deals in free women? Is this he who was formerly st stalwart?

DORDALUS
What means this? *PÆGNIUM strikes him.* Oh, oh! he has given me a slap in the face! I'll do you a mischief. *Shakes his fist at him.*

TOXILUS
But we have done you one, and shall do it again too.

DORDALUS

PÆGNIUM pinching him . Oh, oh! he's pinching my behind.

PÆG.
Of course; it has been many a time twitched before this.

DORDALUS
Are you still prating, you bit of a boy?

LEMNISELENE
to DORDALUS . My patron, do, there's a dear, come in-doors to dinner.

DORDALUS
My lump of laziness, are you now scoffing at me?

LEMNISELENE
What, because I invite you to enjoy yourself?

DORDALUS
I don't want to enjoy myself.

LEMNISELENE
Then don't.

TOXILUS
How then? The six hundred didrachms, how are they? What disturbances they do cause.

DORDALUS
aside . I'm utterly undone! They understand full well how to return the compliment to an enemy.

TOXILUS
Have we now had satisfaction enough?

DORDALUS
I confess it; I hold up my hands to you.

TOXILUS

And, ere long, you shall be holding them beneath the bilboes. Be off in-doors.

SAGARISTIO
To perdition!

DORDALUS
to the AUDIENCE . Have these fellows here worked me in too slight a degree? *Goes into his house.*

TOXILUS
calling after him . Keep in mind that you met with a Toxilus. *To the AUDIENCE.* Spectators, kindly fare you well. The Procurer is demolished. Grant us your applause.

POENULUS

Translated by Henry Thomas Riley

Poenulus, ‘The Little Carthaginian’, was most likely written between 195 and 189 BC and is noteworthy for containing text in Carthaginian Punic, spoken by the character Hanno in the fifth act.

The plot concerns Agorastocles, who is in love with Adelphasium, a slave belonging to the pimp Lycus. Like Agorastocles, she and her sister Anterastilis were stolen from Carthage when they were children and sold into slavery. Agorastocles was purchased not to become a slave, but rather adopted as a son, whereas the girls were bought to become prostitutes. The action deals with Milphio, the slave of Agorastocles, and his attempts to help his master obtain Adelphasium.

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THE SUBJECT

THERE were two cousins, citizens of Carthage; the daughters of one of them named Hanno, were stolen in their childhood, and being carried off to Calydon, were there purchased by Lycus, a Procurer. In the same place there is living Agorastocles, the son of the cousin of Hanno, who, having been stolen in his infancy, was sold to a wealthy old man, and finally adopted by him. Here, without knowing their relationship, Agorastocles falls in love with Adelphasium, the elder of the sisters, while Anthemonides, a military officer, entertains a passion for Anterastylis, the younger sister. The Procurer being at enmity with Agorastocles, the latter, with the assistance of his servant Milphio, devises a plan for outwitting him. Collybiscus, the bailiff of Agorastocles, is dressed up as a foreigner, and, a sum of money being given him for the purpose, pretends to take up his abode in the house of Lycus. On this being effected, by previous arrangement Agorastocles comes with witnesses, and accuses the Procurer of harbouring his slave, and encouraging him to rob his master. At this conjuncture, Hanno arrives at Calydon in search of his daughters. He discovers them, and finds that Agorastocles is the son of his deceased cousin. The play ends with the removal of the damsels from the house of Lycus, who is brought to task for his iniquities; and Adelphasium is promised by her father in marriage to Agorastocles.

THE ACROSTIC ARGUMENT.

[Supposed to have been written by Priscian the Grammarian.]

A BOY (Puer), seven years old, is stolen at Carthage. An old man, a hater (Osco) of women, adopts him when bought, and (Et) makes him his heir. His two kinswomen and their nurse (Nutrix) are also carried off. Lycus buys them and torments (Vexat) Agorastocles in love. But he palms off his bailiff with some gold upon the Procurer (Lenoni), and so convicts him of theft. Hanno, the Carthaginian, comes (Venit), discovers him to be the son of his cousin, and recognizes his own (Suas) daughters whom he had lost. PROLOGUE I HAVE a mind to imitate the Achilles of Aristarchus from that Tragedy I'll take for myself the opening: "Be silent, and hold your tongues, and give attention." The head-manager it is who bids you listen, that with a good grace they may be seated on the benches, both those who have come hungry and those *who have come* well filled. You who have eaten, by far the most wisely have you done: you who have not eaten, do you be filled with the Play. But he who has something ready for him to eat, 'tis *really* great folly in him, for our sakes, to come here to sit fasting. Rise up, cryer! bespeak attention among the people: I'm now waiting *to see* if you know your duty. Exercise your voice, by means of which you subsist and find your clothes; for unless you do cry out, in your silence starvation will be creeping upon you. Well, now sit down again, that you may earn double wages. Heaven grant success! do you obey my commands. Let no worn-out debauchee be sitting in the front of the stage, nor let the lictor or his rods be noisy in the least; and let no seat-keeper be walking about before *people's* faces, nor be showing any to their seats, while the actor is on the stage. Those who have been sleeping too long at home in idleness, it's right for them now to stand contentedly, or else let them master their drowsiness. Don't let slaves be occupying the seats, that there may be room for those who are free; or else let them pay down the money for their places; if that they cannot do, let them be off home, *and* escape a double evil, lest they be variegated both here with scourges, and with thongs at home,

if they've not got things in due order when their masters come home. Let nurses keep children, baby-bantlings, at home, and let no one bring them to see the Play; lest both they themselves may be athirst, and the children may die with hunger; and that they mayn't be squealing about here, in their hungry fits, just like kids. Let the matrons see the piece in silence, in silence laugh, *and* let them refrain from screaming here with their shrill voices; their themes for gossip let them carry off home, so as not to be an annoyance to their husbands both here and at home. And, as regards the managers of the performance, let not the palm *of victory* be given to any player wrongfully, nor by reason of favour let any be driven out of doors, in order that the inferior may be preferred to the good ones. And this, too, besides, which I had almost forgotten: while the performance is going on, do you, lacqueys, make an onset on the cookshops; now, while there's an opportunity, now, while the tarts are smoking hot, hasten there. These injunctions, which have been given as the manager's command, Heaven prosper them! troth now, let every one remember for himself. Now, in its turn, I wish to go back to the plot, that you may be equally knowing with myself. Its site, its limits, its boundaries I'll now lay down; for that purpose have I been appointed surveyor. But, unless it's troublesome, I wish to give you the name of this Comedy: but if it is an annoyance, I'll tell you still, since I have leave from those who have the management. This Comedy is called the "Carthaginian;" in the Latin, Plautus has called it "the Pulse-eating Kinsman." You have the name, then; now hear the rest of the story; for here will this plot be judged of *by you.* Its own stage is the *proper* place for every plot; you are the critics; I pray you lend attention. There were two cousins-german, Carthaginians, of a very high and very wealthy family. One of them is *still* alive, the other's dead. The more confidently do I inform you *of this,* because the undertaker told me so, who anointed him *for the pile.* But the only son there was of that old man who died, being separated from his father, was stolen at Carthage when seven years old, six years, in fact, before his father died. When he saw that his only son was lost to him, he himself, from grief, fell sick; he made this cousin-german of his his heir; he himself departed for Acheron without taking leave. The person who stole the child, carried him off to Calydon, *and* sold

him here to a certain rich old man for his master, one desirous of children, *but* a hater of women. This old man, without knowing it, bought the son of his host, that same child, and adopted him as his own son, and made him his heir when he himself departed this life. This young man is dwelling here in this house. *Pointing to the house of AGORASTOCLES.* Once more do I return to Carthage. If you want to give any commission, or *anything* to be managed — unless a person gives the money, he will be mistaken; but he who does give it will be very much more *mistaken.* But this father's cousin of his at Carthage, the old man who is still alive, had two daughters. The one when in her fifth year, the other in her fourth, were lost, together with their nurse, from the walks in the suburbs. The person who kidnapped them, carried them off to Anactorium, and sold them all, both nurse and girls, for ready money, to a man (if a Procurer is a man) the most accursed of men, as many as the earth contains; but do you yourselves now form a conjecture what sort of man it is whose name is Lycus. He removed, not long ago, from Anactorium, where he formerly lived, to Calydon here, for the sake of his business. Be dwells in that house. *Pointing to the house of LYCUS.* This young man is dying distractedly in love with one of them, his kinswoman, not knowing that fact; neither is he aware who she is, nor has he ever touched her (so much does the Procurer hamper him); neither has he hitherto ever had any improper connexion with her, nor *ever* taken her *home to his house;* nor has that *Procurer* been willing to send her *there.* Because he sees that he is in love, he wishes to touch *this* man for a *good* haul. A certain Captain, who is desperately in love with her, is desirous to buy this younger one to be his mistress. But their father, the Carthaginian, since he lost them, has been continually seeking them in every quarter, by sea and land. When he has entered any city, at once he seeks out all the courtesans, wherever each of them is living; he gives *her* gold, *and* prolongs the night *in his enquiries;* after that he asks whence she comes, of what country, whether she was made captive or kidnapped, born of what family, who her parents were. So diligently and so skilfully does he seek for his daughters. He knows all languages, too; but, though he knows them, he pretends not to know them: what need is there of talking? He is a Carthaginian all over. He, in the evening of yesterday, came

into harbour here on board ship. The father of these girls, the same is the father's cousin of this young man. Now d'ye take this? If you do take it, draw it out: take care not to break it asunder; pray, let it proceed. *Moving as if to go.* Dear me! I had almost forgotten to say the rest. He who adopted this *young man* as his own son, the same was the guest of that Carthaginian, this *old man's* father. He will come here to-day, and discover his daughters here, and this person, his cousin's son, as indeed I've learnt. He, *I say,* who'll come to-day, will find his daughters and this his cousin's son. But after this, farewell! — attend; I'm off; I now intend to become another man. As to what remains, some others remain who'll explain *all to you.* I'll go *and* dress. With kindly feelings do you *then* recognize me. Farewell! *and* give me your aid, that Salvation may prove propitious to you.

ACT I.

Enter, from his house, AGORASTOCLES, followed by MILPHIO.

AGORASTOCLES
Full oft have I entrusted many matters to you, Milphio, *matters* of doubt *and* necessity, *and* standing in need of good counsel, which you wisely, discreetly, cleverly, and skilfully have by your aid brought to completion for me. For which services I do confess that *both* your liberty and many kind thanks are due unto you.

MILPHIO
An old adage, if you timely introduce it, is a clever thing: but your compliments are to me what are wont to be called sheer nonsense, and, upon my faith, mere bagatelles. Just now, you are full of kind speeches towards me; yesterday, without hesitation, upon my back you wore out three bulls' hides *with flogging.*

AGORASTOCLES
But if, being in love, I did anything by reason of my distraction, Milphio, it's *only* reasonable that you should pardon me for it.

MILPHIO
I've seen nothing more *reasonable.* I, too, am now dying for love; allow me to thrash you just as you did me, for no fault *at all;* and then, after that, do you pardon me being *thus* in love.

AGORASTOCLES
If you have a mind for it, or it gives you pleasure, I do permit it; tie me up, bind me, scourge me; I recommend you, I give you my permission.

MILPHIO
If, hereafter, you should revoke your permission, when you are unloosed, I myself should be hung up *for punishment.*

AGORASTOCLES

And would I venture to do that, to yourself espercially? On the contrary, if I see you but struck, it gives me pain immediately.

MILPHIO
To me, indeed, i' faith.

AGORASTOCLES
No, to me.

MILPHIO
I could prefer that *to be the case.* But what now do you wish?

AGORASTOCLES
Why need I tell a lie to you? I am desperately in love.

MILPHIO
My shoulder-blades feel that.

AGORASTOCLES
But I mean with this damsel, my neighbour Adelphasium, the elder Courtesan that belongs to this Procurer.

MILPHIO
For my own part, I've heard that from yourself already.

AGORASTOCLES
I'm on the rack with love for her. But than this Procurer Lycus, her master, not dirt *itself* is more dirty.

MILPHIO
Do you wish now to present him with some mischief?

AGORASTOCLES
I should like it.

MILPHIO
Why look *then,* present him with me.

AGORASTOCLES

Go and be hanged!

MILPHIO
But tell me seriously, do you wish to present him with a plague?

AGORASTOCLES
I should like it.

MILPHIO
Well then, present him with this selfsame me; I'd cause him to be having both a mischief and a plague.

AGORASTOCLES
You are joking.

MILPHIO
Should you like this very day, without risk to yourself, to make her free?

AGORASTOCLES
I should like it, Milphio.

MILPHIO
I'll manage for you to make her so. You have indoors three hundred golden Philippean pieces.

AGORASTOCLES
Six hundred even.

MILPHIO
Three hundred are enough.

AGORASTOCLES
To do what *with them?*

MILPHIO
Hold your peace. This day I'll make you a present of the Procurer, whole, with all his household.

AGORASTOCLES
What to do?

MILPHIO
You shall soon know. Collybiscus, your bailiff, is in the city just now. The Procurer doesn't know him. Do you fully understand?

AGORASTOCLES
I' faith, I understand *that;* but what you are driving at I know not.

MILPHIO
You don't know?

AGORASTOCLES
Not *I,* faith.

MILPHIO
But I'll soon let you know. The gold shall be given him, for him to take to the Procurer, and say that he's a stranger from another city; that he's amorously inclined, and wishes to gratify his inclinations; that he wants free range to be found him, where he may secretly indulge his appetite, so that there may be no overlooker. The Procurer, greedy for the gold, will at once take him into his house; he'll conceal the man and the gold.

AGORASTOCLES
The design pleases me.

MILPHIO
Do you *then* enquire of him whether your slave hasn't come to him. He'll think that I am being sought for; immediately he'll say no to you. Have you any doubt but that the Procurer will at once have to double the gold for you, and be *considered* to have stolen the man? Neither has he the means of raising it. When he comes to trial, the Prætor will award his whole household to you. Thus with a pitfall shall we deceive the Procurer Lycus.

AGORASTOCLES

The design pleases me.

MILPHIO
Aye, when I've polished it up, you'll then say so still more even; now it's but in the rough.

AGORASTOCLES
I'm going to the Temple of Venus, unless, Milphio, you wish for anything. It's the Aphrodisia to-day.

MILPHIO
I know.

AGORASTOCLES
I wish to amuse my eyes with the harlot finery.

MILPHIO
Let's first proceed to this, the plan we have resolved upon. Let's go in-doors, that we may instruct Collybiscus, the bailiff, how to plant this cheatery.

AGORASTOCLES
Although Cupid has the sway in my heart, still I'll listen to you.

MILPHIO
I'll cause you to be glad it's done. *AGORASTOCLES goes into his house.* There is a speck of love upon this man's breast, which cannot by any means be washed out without great harm; this Lycus, too, the Procurer, is such a wicked person, against whom the engine of mischief is now well aimed, which before long I shall discharge from my battery. But see, here's Adelphasium coming out, and Anterastylis. The first is the one who renders my master distracted. But I'll call him out. *Goes to the door and calls.* Hallo! Agorastocles, come out of doors if you would see most joyous sports! *in haste, from the house.*

AGORASTOCLES
What's this bustle, Milphio?

MILPHIO
pointing to the door of LYCUS'S house . Why, here's your mistress, if you'd like to see her.

AGORASTOCLES
O may the Gods bestow many a blessing on you, for having presented to me a sight so charming as this! *They stand apart.*

Enter ADELPHASIUM, ANTERASTYLIS, and an ATTENDANT.

ADELPHASIUM
The man who wants to find abundance of employment for himself — a woman and a ship, these two things, let him procure; for no two things do produce more trouble, if, perchance, you begin to equip them; neither are these two things ever equipped enough, nor is the largest amount of equipment sufficient for them. And as I mention these things, from experience at home do I now say thus; for we two, even from daybreak up to the present hour of the day, have never ceased either washing, or scrubbing, or rubbing, or dressing, smoothing, polishing, painting, trimming, with all our might, and at the same time the two maid-servants, that have been provided for each of us, have been giving us their assistance in washing *and* cleaning; and in carrying water two men have become quite weary. Fie upon it! how great a plague there is in one female. But if *there are* two, I know full well that they are able to give to any one, the mightiest nation whatsoever, more trouble than enough, in being night and day, always, at all hours, dressing, washing, rubbing, polishing. In fine, there's no moderation in women, nor do we understand how ever to set a limit to washing and scrubbing. But she who is washed clean, unless she is thoroughly dressed, in my notion at least, is just as though she were dirty.

ANTERASTYLIS
I really wonder, sister, that you talk in this fashion; you who are so knowing, and discreet, and clever; for when with all care we have ourselves in trim, hardly and with difficulty do we find poor pitiful admirers.

ADELPHASIUM
Such is the fact; but still reflect upon this one thing; a limit is best to be observed in all things, sister; all things in excess give too much trouble to mortals of themselves.

ANTERASTYLIS
Sister, prithee, do reflect that we are accounted just in the same way as pickled salt-fish is thought of — without any relish and without sweetness; unless full oft and long it is soaked in water, it smells badly, *and* is salt, so that you cannot touch it. Just so are we. Women of this class are utterly tasteless, and devoid of grace, without dress and expense.

MILPHIO
apart . She surely is a cook, Agorastocles, according to my notion; she knows how to soak pickled fish.

AGORASTOCLES
pushing him away . Why *are you thus* troublesome?

ADELPHASIUM
Sister, do, there's a dear, forbear. It's quite sufficient for others to say that to us, not to be ourselves as well proclaiming our foibles.

ANTERASTYLIS
I'll have done, then.

ADELPHASIUM
I thank you: but now answer me this; are all things here which ought to be provided for propitiating the Gods?

ANTERASTYLIS
I've taken care of everything.

AGORASTOCLES
apart . How charming and joyous a day, and full of delight, worthy of Venus, by my troth, whose Aphrodisia are *celebrated* to-day!

MILPHIO
apart . Any thanks *for me,* for calling you out of doors? Oughtn't I now to be presented with a cask of old wine? Say it shall be given. Don't you answer me? His tongue has fallen out, I imagine. What, plague on it, have you been struck with amazement standing here? *He shakes him.*

AGORASTOCLES
apart . Do let me love on; don't disturb me, and do hold your peace.

MILPHIO
apart . I'll hold my peace.

AGORASTOCLES
apart . If you had held your peace, why then that "I'll hold my peace" would not have been in existence.

ANTERASTYLIS
Let's go, my sister. *She moves.*

ADELPHASIUM
How now — why, prithee, are you now hastening that way?

ANTERASTYLIS
Do you ask me? Because our master is waiting for us at the Temple of Venus.

ADELPHASIUM
Let him wait, i' faith. Do you stay; there's a crowd just now at the altar. Do you wish yourself to be pushed about among those common prostitutes, the doxies of bakers, the cast-offs of the spelt-bread sellers; wretched creatures, daubed over with grease, followers of poor slaves, *who* stink for you of their stable and stall, their seats and very sheds; whom, in fact, not a single freeman has ever touched or taken home *with him,* the twopenny strumpets of dirty trumpery slaves?

MILPHIO

apart . Away with you to utter perdition! Do you dare, then, to despise the slaves, you hussey? As if she was a beauty, as if kings were in the habit of making her their choice. A monstrosity of a woman! Diminutive as she is, she does spit out such mighty words — seven nights with whom I wouldn't purchase at a cupful of vapour.

AGORASTOCLES
apart . Immortal and omnipotent Divinities, what is there among you more beauteous? What have you that I should deem you more immortal than I am myself. in beholding with my eyes these delights so great? But Venus is not Venus; for my own part, her will I worship as Venus; that she may love me and prove propitious. Milphio! — hallo! Milphio, where are you?

MILPHIO
apart . See, here I am with you.

AGORASTOCLES
apart . But I want you boiled.

MILPHIO
apart . Why really, master, you are making merry.

AGORASTOCLES
apart . Why, it was from yourself I learnt all this.

MILPHIO
apart . What, even to be in love with her whom you have never touched? Really, that is nonsense.

AGORASTOCLES
apart . I' faith, the Gods as well do I love and fear from whom, nevertheless, I keep off my hands.

ANTERASTYLIS
Alas! upon my word, when I look at the dress of us both, I'm grieved at the way we are dressed out.

ADELPHASIUM
Why really, it's quite in a proper style; for our master's gain and our own we are dressed quite well enough. For no profits can result, if the outlay exceeds them, sister; therefore, that is better to be had which is enough, than that which is more than enough.

AGORASTOCLES
apart . So may the Gods love me, may she love me (I had rather she than the Gods), Milphio; why, this woman has it in her power to force a flint-stone to be in love with her.

MILPHIO
apart . Upon my faith, in that you certainly tell no lie, for you are more senseless than a flint-stone to be in love with her.<

AGORASTOCLES
apart . But consider *this,* will you; I've never soiled her with a kiss.
MIL. *apart* . I'll run, then, somewhere to a fish-pond or a pool, *and* fetch some soil.

AGORASTOCLES
apart . What need is there of that?

MILPHIO
apart . I'll tell you; to soil her lips and yours.

AGORASTOCLES
apart . To utter perdition with you!

MILPHIO
apart . For my part, I'm there *already.*

AGORASTOCLES
apart . Do you persist?

MILPHIO
apart . I'll hold my tongue.

AGORASTOCLES
apart . But I wish you *to do so* always.

MILPHIO
apart . Why really, master, you challenge me at my own game, and *still* you make fun of me.

ANTERASTYLIS
At present, sister, I suppose you think yourself quite well enough drest; but when the instances of other courtesans are compared, then you will be having the heartache, if perchance you should see any one more nicely drest.

ADELPHASIUM
Envy was never inbred in me, my sister, nor yet spitefulness: I had rather by far that I was adorned with a good disposition than with gold; gold is met with by luck, a good disposition *is found* by nature. I very much prefer for myself to be called good than fortunate. It more befits a courtesan to show modesty than purple; and more does it become a courtesan to show modesty than golden *jewels.* Evil habits soil a fine dress more than mud; good manners, by their deeds, easily set off a lowly garb.

AGORASTOCLES
apart to MILPHIO . How now, you; would you like to play a merry and a frolicsome prank?

MILPHIO
apart . I should like.

AGORASTOCLES
apart . Can you, *then,* give attention to me?

MILPHIO
apart . I can.

AGORASTOCLES
apart . Be off home, and go hang yourself.

MILPHIO
apart . Why? AGO. *apart* . Because you'll never again hear so many words as sweet *as these.* What need have you to live? Only listen to me, and go hang yourself.

MILPHIO
apart Why yes, if, like grapes that are drying, you'll hang together with me.

AGORASTOCLES
apart . But I do love her.

MILPHIO
apart . But I, to eat and drink.

ADELPHASIUM
to her SISTER . How now, you? How say you — ?

ANTERASTYLIS
What is it you ask *me?*

ADELPHASIUM
Do you see? My eyes which were full of dirt, are they clear now?

ANTERASTYLIS
looking close at her eyes . Why, even still there's a little dirt in the middle of the eye.

ADELPHASIUM
Lend me your right hand, please.

AGORASTOCLES
apart . And would you really touch or rub her eyes with unwashed hands?

ANTERASTYLIS
Too great indolence has taken possession of us to-day.

ADELPHASIUM
For what reason, prithee?

ANTERASTYLIS
Why, because we didn't come long since, before daylight, to the Temple of Venus, to be the first to place fire upon her altar.

ADELPHASIUM
O, there's no need for doing that; those who have faces suited for the night *only,* make haste to go and sacrifice by night; before Venus is awake, they are already hurrying with all haste to sacrifice; for if they were to come when Venus is awake, so ugly are they, upon my faith, I do believe they would drive Venus herself away from the Temple.

AGORASTOCLES
apart . Milphio! MIL. *apart* . Poor Milphio, i' faith! What do you want with me now?

AGORASTOCLES
apart . Troth now, prithee, do mark how she speaks honied wine!

MILPHIO
apart , Nothing at all, except tile- cakes, sesamum, and poppies, wheat and parched nuts.

AGORASTOCLES
apart . Do I seem at all *to be* in love?

MILPHIO
apart . *In love* to your loss, a thing that Mercury is by no means in love with.

AGORASTOCLES
apart . Why, really, by my troth, it befits no lover to be in love with pelf.

ANTERASTYLIS
Let's go, my sister.

ADELPHASIUM
Do, please, just as you like. Follow *me* this way.

ANTERASTYLIS
I'll follow. *They move.*

AGORASTOCLES
apart . They are going. What if we accost them?

MILPHIO
apart . You accost them.

AGORASTOCLES
going towards them . In the first place, health to you, the elder; and you, the younger, health to you in the second degree of estimation; *to the ATTENDANT* you, the third, health to you, without any place in my estimation.

ATT.
In that case, faith, I've wasted my oil and my labour.

AGORASTOCLES
to ADELPHASIUM . Whither are you betaking yourself?

ADELPHASIUM
What I? To the Temple of Venus.

AGORASTOCLES
Why thither?

ADELPHASIUM
To propitiate Venus.

AGORASTOCLES
How now? Is she angry, *then?* Upon my faith, she is propitious. I will even answer for her. *Stands before her.*

ADELPHASIUM

What are you about? Prithee, why are you annoying me?

AGORASTOCLES
Thus cruel? Alas!

ADELPHASIUM
Let me go away, I beg of you.

AGORASTOCLES
Why in such a hurry? There's a crowd there at present.

ADELPHASIUM
I know it; there are other females there whom I wish to see, and *by whom* to be seen.

AGORASTOCLES
How can it give you pleasure to look at ugly people, *and* to afford one *so* beauteous to be looked at?

ADELPHASIUM
Because to-day, at the Temple of Venus, there's a fair for the courtesans; there the dealers meet; there I wish myself to be shown.

AGORASTOCLES
To wares unsaleable, its right to entice the buyer of one's own accord; good wares easily meet with a purchaser, although they may be placed in concealment. How say you? When, at my house here *pointing* will you lay your head and side by me?

ADELPHASIUM
On the day on which Orcus sends away the dead from Acheron.

AGORASTOCLES
I've got in-doors I know not how many golden coins in a state of madness.

ADELPHASIUM
Bring them to me; I'll make their madness pretty soon come to an

end.

MILPHIO
with indignation . A nice one, upon my word!

AGORASTOCLES
Away to utter and extreme perdition with you, and go and be hanged!

MILPHIO
aside to AGORASTOCLES . The more I look at her, the more insignificant she is, and a mere bauble.

AGORASTOCLES
Keep your prating to yourself; I'm tired of it. *To ADELPHASIUM.* Come, do lift up this outer garment. *Raises it from the ground, and attempts to embrace her.*

ADELPHASIUM
I'm in a state of purity; prithee forbear to touch me, Agorastocles.

AGORASTOCLES
What am I to do, then?

ADELPHASIUM
If you are wise, you may be saving yourself your anxiety.

AGORASTOCLES
What? Me not be anxious on your account? What are you about, Milphio? *Beckons to him.*

MILPHIO
aside . See now, my aversion, *this*. *Aloud.* What is it you want with me?

AGORASTOCLES
pointing to ADELPHASIUM . Why is she angry with me?

MILPHIO

Why is she angry with you? Why should I trouble myself about that? For that is rather your own concern.

AGORASTOCLES
On my word, it's all over with you this very instant, if you don't make her as smooth for me as the sea is at the time when the halcyon is rearing her young ones there.

MILPHIO
What am I to do?

AGORASTOCLES
Entreat *her,* soothe, *and* flatter *her.*

MILPHIO
I'll do so with all diligence; but see, please, that you don't afterwards be giving this ambassador *of yours* a dressing with your fists.

AGORASTOCLES
I'll not do so.

ADELPHASIUM
to her SISTER . Let's now begone. *AGORASTOCLES stands before her.* Do you detain me still? You act badly; you make me many fair promises; of those many, the whole come to nothing at all. Not once, but a hundred times, have you sworn to give me my freedom. While depending on you, I have neither anywhere procured any other resources for myself, nor is this *assistance of yours* at all visible. And thus none the less am I still a slave. Move on, sister. *To AGORASTOCLES.* Get you gone from me!

AGORASTOCLES
Utterly undone! Come now, Milphio, what are you about? *Points at ADELPHASIUM.*

MILPHIO
addressing ADELPHASIUM . My joy, my delight, my life, my pleasure, apple of my eye, my little lip, my health, my *sweet* kiss, my

honey, my heart, my biestings, my cream-cheese ——

AGORASTOCLES
aside . Am I to allow these things to be said in my presence? I'm quite distracted, wretch that I am, if I don't order him at full speed to be hurried off to the executioner in a chariot and four!

MILPHIO
to ADELPHASIUM . Prithee, for my sake, don't be angry with my master. I'll make ——

ADELPHASIUM
Let me alone.

MILPHIO
You are too cross. He'll pay the money for you, and make you a citizen of Attica, and a free woman.

ADELPHASIUM
to MILPHIO, who is standing before her , But why don't you let me go away? What is it you want? Just as he wishes me well, in like manner do you wish me well.

MILPHIO
If, indeed, he has deceived you before, from this time forward he shall be truthful to you.

ADELPHASIUM
Get you gone hence, will you, *you* trepanner.

MILPHIO
I'll obey *you.* But on what terms — do you understand? Do let me prevail upon you; do let me take you by *those* little ears; do let me give you a kiss. By my troth, I shall now set him a> weeping, if I don't make you kind; and (unless I do make you kind he *certainly* will do it) I'm dreadfully afraid lest he should beat me. I know the harsh manners of this crabbed man. Wherefore, my delight, pray do let me prevail upon you.

AGORASTOCLES
aside . I'm not a man worth threepence, if I don't tear out the eyes and teeth of that whip-scoundrel. *He beats MILPHIO.* There's your delight for you! There's your honey! There's your heart! There are your biestings! There's your health! There's your *sweet* kiss! *Giving him a blow at each sentence.*

MILPHIO
Master, you are rendering yourself guilty of impiety! You are beating an ambassador.

AGORASTOCLES
More than that even still. *Beating him again.* I shall now add the apple of the eye, the little lip too, and the tongue.

MILPHIO
When will you be making an end?

AGORASTOCLES
Was it in that fashion I requested you to plead *for me?*

MILPHIO
How then was I to plead?

AGORASTOCLES
Do you ask me *that?* Why thus you should have said, you scoundrel: "his" delight, I do entreat of you, "his" honey, "his" heart, "his" little lip, "his" tongue, "his" *sweet* kiss, "his" biestings, "his" sweet cream-cheese, you whip-scoundrel. All these things which you spoke of as yours, you should have mentioned as mine.

MILPHIO
addressing ADELPHASIUM . By my troth, I do entreat you, his delight and my own aversion; his full-bosomed mistress, my enemy and evil-wisher; his eye, my eyesore; his honey, my gall — don't you be angry with him; or, if that cannot be, do take a rope and hang yourself, with your master and your household: for I see that henceforth, on your account, I shall have to live upon sighing; and as

it is, I've already got my back about as hard with weals as an oyster-shell, by reason of your amours.

ADELPHASIUM
Prithee, do you wish me to hinder him from beating you, rather than that he should not prove untrue towards me?

ANTERASTYLIS
to her SISTER . Do answer him in somewhat kindly terms, there's a dear, that he mayn't be annoying to us; for he's detaining us from our purpose.

ADELPHASIUM
That's true. This one fault more will I pardon you for, Agorastocles. I am not angry.

AGORASTOCLES
You are not?

ADELPHASIUM
I am not.

AGORASTOCLES
That I may believe you, give me a kiss then.

ADELPHASIUM
I'll give you one by-and-by, when I return from the sacrifice.

AGORASTOCLES
Be off, then, in all haste.

ADELPHASIUM
Follow me, sister.

AGORASTOCLES
And do you hear too? Pay all compliments to Venus in my name.

ADELPHASIUM

I'll pay them.

AGORASTOCLES
Listen to this, too ——

ADELPHASIUM
What is it?

AGORASTOCLES
Perform the ceremony in few words. And do you hear? Look back *at me. She looks back.* She did look back. By my troth, I trust that Venus will do the same for you. *ADELPHASIUM, ANTERASTYLIS, and ATTENDANT go into the Temple of Venus.*

AGORASTOCLES and MILPHIO.

AGORASTOCLES
What now do you advise me *to do,* Milphio?

MILPHIO
To give me a beating, and *then* have an auction; for *pointing to the house* really, upon my faith, with utter impunity you might put up this house for sale.

AGORASTOCLES
Why so?

MILPHIO
For the greater part you make your dwelling in my mouth.

AGORASTOCLES
Do have done with those expressions.

MILPHIO
What now do you wish?

AGORASTOCLES
I just now gave three hundred Philippeans to the bailiff Collybiscus,

before you called me out of doors. I now adjure you, Milphio, by this right hand, and by this left hand its sister, and by your eyes, and by my passion, and by my own Adelphasium, and by your liberty ——

MILPHIO
Why, now you adjure me by nothing at all.

AGORASTOCLES
My dear little Milphio, my *kind* occasion, my safeguard, do what you promised me you would do, that I may prove the ruin of this Procurer.

MILPHIO
Why, that's very easy *to be done.* Be off, bring here with you your witnesses; meanwhile, in-doors I'll forthwith provide your bailiff with my disguise and stratagems. Make haste and be off.

AGORASTOCLES
I fly.

MILPHIO
That's more my part than yours.

AGORASTOCLES
Should I not, should I not, if you effect this adroitly ——

MILPHIO
Only do begone.

AGORASTOCLES
Ought I not this very day ——

MILPHIO
Only do be off.

AGORASTOCLES
To give you freedom

MILPHIO
Only do begone.

AGORASTOCLES
By my troth, I should not deserve-ah!

MILPHIO
Bah! Only do be off.

AGORASTOCLES
As many as are the dead in Acheron ——

MILPHIO
Will you, then, move off?

AGORASTOCLES
Nor yet as many as there are waves in the sea ——

MILPHIO
Are you going to move off?

AGORASTOCLES
Nor as many as there are clouds ——

MILPHIO
Do you persist in going on *this way?*

AGORASTOCLES
Nor as there are stars in heaven ——

MILPHIO
Do you persist in dinning my ears?

AGORASTOCLES
Neither this thing nor that; nor yet, indeed, seriously speaking — nor, by my faith, indeed. What need is there of words? And why not? — a thing that in one word — here we may say anything we please — and yet, i' faith, not seriously in reality. D'ye see how 'tis? So may

the Gods bless me! — do you wish me to tell you in honest truth? A thing that here we may between ourselves — so *help* me Jupiter —— Do you see how? Look you — do you believe what I tell you?

MILPHIO
If I cannot make you go away, I shall go away myself: for really, upon my faith, there's need of an Œdipus as a diviner for this speech *of yours, him* who was the interpreter to the Sphinx. *He goes into the house of AGORASTOCLES.*

AGORASTOCLES
He has gone off in a passion; now must I beware, lest, through my own fault, I place an impediment in the way of my love. I'll go and fetch the witnesses, since love commands me, a free man, to be obedient to my own slave. *(Exit.)*

ACT 1I.

Enter LYCUS.

LYCUS
to himself . May all the Gods render him unfortunate, should any Procurer, after this day, ever immolate any victim to Venus, or should any one sacrifice a single grain of frankincense. For wretched I, this day, have sacrificed to my most wrathful Deities six lambs, and still I could not manage to make Venus to be propitious unto me. Since I could not appease her, forthwith I departed thence in a passion; I forbade the entrails to be cut, and would not examine them. Inasmuch as the soothsayer pronounced them not propitious, I deemed the Goddess not deserving. By these means I fairly played a trick upon the greedy Venus. When, that which was enough, she would not have to be enough, I made a pause. 'Tis thus I act, *and* thus it befits me *to act.* I'll make the other Gods and Goddesses henceforth more contented, and less greedy, when they know how the Procurer put a trick upon Venus. The soothsayer, in manner right worthy of him, a fellow not worth threepence, said that in all the entrails misfortune and loss were portended to me, and that the Gods were angry with me. In what matter either divine or human is it right for me to put trust in him? Just after that, a mina of silver was given me. But where, pray, has this Captain stopped just now, who gave it me, *and* whom I've invited to breakfast? But look! here he comes.
ANTHEMONIDES.

ANTHEMONIDES
So, as I began to tell you, *you* sorry pimp, about that Pentethronic battle, in which, with my own hands, in one day, I slew sixty thousand flying men.

LYCUS
Heyday! Flying men?

ANTHEMONIDES
Certainly I do affirm it.

LYCUS
Prithee, are there anywhere men that fly?

ANTHEMONIDES
There were; but I slew them.

LYCUS
How could you?

ANTHEMONIDES
I'll tell you. I gave birdlime and slings to my troops; beneath it they laid leaves of coltsfoot.

LYCUS
For what purpose?

ANTHEMONIDES
That the birdlime mightn't adhere to the slings.

LYCUS
Proceed. *Aside.* I faith, you do lie most egregiously. *Aloud.* What after that?

ANTHEMONIDES
They placed pretty large pellets of birdlime in their slings: with which I ordered them to be taken aim at as they flew. Why many words? Each one did they hit with the birdlime-they fell to the ground as thick as pears. As each one dropped, I straightway pierced him through the brain with his own feathers, just like a turtle-dove.

LYCUS
By my troth, if ever this did take place, then may Jupiter make me to be ever sacrificing, *and* never propitiating him.

ANTHEMONIDES
And don't you.believe me in this?

LYCUS

I do believe, in the same degree that it is proper that I should be believed. Come, let's go in-doors, until the entrails are brought home.

ANTHEMONIDES
I wish to relate to you a single battle more.

LYCUS
I don't care about it.

ANTHEMONIDES
Do listen.

LYCUS
Upon my faith, no.

ANTHEMONIDES
Why then I'll break your head this distant, if you don't listen, or else be off to utter perdition!

LYCUS
I'd sooner go to utter perdition!

ANTHEMONIDES
Are you determined *then?*

LYCUS
Determined.

ANTHEMONIDES
In that case, do you, then, upon *this* lucky day, the Aphrodisia, make over to me the younger one of your courtesans.

LYCUS
The sacred ceremony has *by its omens* been to me today of such a nature — I put off all serious matters from today until another day. I am resolved to make it really a holiday. Now let's go hence in-doors. Follow me this way.

ANTHEMONIDES
I follow. For this day, then, I'm out on hire to you. *They go into the house of LYCUS.*

ACT III.

Enter AGORASTOCLES, and several ASSISTANTS walking behind him.

AGORASTOCLES
So may the Deities love me, there's nothing more annoying than a tardy friend, especially to a man in love, who's in a hurry in everything that he does; just as I'm leading on these assistants, fellows of most crawling step; they are more slow than merchant-ships in a calm sea. And upon my faith, I really did on purpose wave my aged friends; I knew they were too slow through their years; I apprehended delay to my passion; in vain I selected for myself these *young* fellows on their preferment, timber-legged, most tardy *chaps.* Well *turning round to them* , if you are going to come to-day, get on, or get off hence to utter perdition! Is this the way it befits friends to give their assistance to a person in love? Why sure, this pace was bolted through a fine floursieve; unless you have been practising in fetters to creep along thus with this step.

ADVOCATI
Hark you! although we seem to you of the commonalty and poor, if you don't speak us fair, *you* rich man of highest rank, we are in the habit of boldly playing the mischief with the rich man; we are under no engagement to you, about what it is that you love or hate. When we paid money for our freedom, we paid our own, not yours; it's right that we should be under no restraint. We value you at nought; don't you fancy that we've been made over as slaves to your passion. It's proper for free men to go through the city at a moderate pace; I deem it like a slave to be running along in a bustle. Especially when the state is at peace and the enemies are slain, it is not decent to make a tumult. But if you were for making greater haste, you ought to have brought us here as assistants the day before. Don't you fancy it — not any one of us will this day be running through the streets, nor yet shall the people pelt us with stones for madmen.

AGORASTOCLES
But if I had said that I was taking you to a Temple to breakfast, you would have surpassed a stag in speed, or a man on stilts in your steps. Now, because I have said that I am taking you as my assistants and witnesses, you are gouty, and in the slowness of your pace have been outdoing the snail.

ADVOCATI
Why, really, is there not good cause for running swiftly, where you are to drink *and* eat at another man's expense as much as you please, until you are full, what you need never return against your will to your host, at whose expense you have been eating? But still,in some way or other, although we are poor men, we have at home something to eat; don't you browbeat us in such a contemptuous way. Whatever that very little is, that *little* of ours is all at home; we neither dun any one ourselves, nor does any one dun us. Not one of us is going to burst the veins of his lungs for your sake.

AGORASTOCLES
You are too warm; really, I said this to you in joke.

ADVOCATI
Consider it said in joke as well what we have said to you in answer.

AGORASTOCLES
Troth now, prithee, do give me this aid of yours *like* a fly-boat, not a merchant-ship. Do hobble along at least, for I do not ask you to hurry.

ADVOCATI
If you wish to do anything quietly and leisurely, we lend our aid; if you are in a hurry, it would be better for you to hire runners *as your* assistants.

AGORASTOCLES
You understand (the matter I've informed you of), that I have need of your assistance with regard to this Procurer, who has so long trifled with me in my amour; that a scheme is to be planned against him

about the gold and. my servant.

ADVOCATI
All that we know already, if these Spectators know. For the sake of these Spectators it is that this Play is now being acted. ‘Twere better for you to inform them, that when you do anything, they may know what it is you are doing. Don’t you trouble about us; we know the whole matter; since we all learnt it together in company with yourself, so that we can answer you.

AGORASTOCLES
Such really is the fact; but come, that I may be sure then that you know it, repeat the matter at length, and tell me what I told you just now.

ADVOCATI
Are you trying in this way whether we know? Do you suppose we don’t remember how you have given three hundred Philippeans to Collybiscus your bailiff, for him to bring here to the Procurer, your enemy, and to pretend that he is a foreigner from a distance, from another city? When he has brought them, you’ll go there to seek your servant together with the money.

AGORASTOCLES
You remember it by heart; you have saved me.

ADVOCATI
He’ll be for denying it; he’ll suppose your Milphio is being looked for. He’ll have to pay double all the money stolen; the Procurer will be adjudged to you. In this matter you wish us to be your witnesses.

AGORASTOCLES
You’ve got the matter *fast.*

ADVOCATI
I’ faith, hardly with the tips of our fingers, indeed; it is so very small a one.

AGORASTOCLES
This must be done quickly and with expedition. Make as much haste, then, as you can.

ADVOCATI
moving as though going . Kindly fare you well, then; it's better for you to provide some active assistants, we are *but* slow ones.

AGORASTOCLES
You move very well. *Aside. But* very badly do you speak me, faith. *Aloud.* Moreover, I could wish your thighs to fall down into your ankles.

ADVOCATI
And, i' faith, we that your tongue *had fallen* into your loins, and your eyes upon the ground.

AGORASTOCLES
Heyday! it's not for you to be angry at what I said in joke.

ADVOCATI
Nor for you, indeed, to be speaking ill to your friends in joke.

AGORASTOCLES
Drop this. What I want to do, you understand.

ADVOCATI
We know full well: to undo the perjured Procurer, it's that you wish.

AGORASTOCLES
You've got the matter right. See, Milphio and the bailiff are opportunely coming out together. He's coming rigged out like a nobleman, and appropriately, for the plot.

Enter MILPHIO and COLLYBISCUS, from the house of AGORASTOCLES, dressed as a person of quality.

MILPHIO

Have you now got your instructions by heart?

COLLYBISCUS
Nicely.

MILPHIO
Take care you understand them, please.

COLLYBISCUS
What need is there of talking? I won't let my own legs understand as well.

MILPHIO
Only take you care that your speeches are learnt by heart for this plot.

COLLYBISCUS
Why, upon my faith, I am more perfect than tragic or comic actors *are.*

MILPHIO
You are a capital fellow.

AGORASTOCLES
to the ASSISTANTS . Let's go nearer *to them. Accosting MILPHIO and COLLYBISCUS.* Here are the witnesses.

MILPHIO
to AGORASTOCLES . Really you could not have brought as many men better suited for this purpose; for not one of them is tongue-tied *as a witness*; they are genuine men of the law-courts; there they take up their abode; there you may see them more frequently than the Prætor. At this very time there are no better cookers-up of a lawsuit, to stir up litigation, than are these men; for they, if there is no litigation, sow litigation.

ADVOCATI
May the Gods confound you!

MILPHIO
You I really do commend, inasmuch as, whoever you are, still you act both worthily and kindly in giving your aid to my master *thus* in love. *To AGORASTOCLES.* But do they now know what the business is?

AGORASTOCLES
The whole matter, *all* in its order.

MILPHIO
In that case, do you, then, give me your attention. Do you know this Procurer Lycus?

ADVOCATI
Perfectly.

COLLYBISCUS
But, upon my faith, I don't know him, of what appearance he is. I wish that you would point this fellow out to me.

ADVOCATI
We'll take all care: we've been instructed quite enough.

AGORASTOCLES
pointing to COLLYBISCUS . He has got three hundred pieces counted out.

ADVOCATI
Then it's right, Agorastocles, that we should see this gold, that we may know what to say by-and-by as our testimony.

AGORASTOCLES
Come *and* look at it. *Opens the bag which COLLYBISCUS holds in his hand.*

COLLYBISCUS
to the AUDIENCE . Undoubtedly it's gold, Spectators — playhouse *gold*; upon this, soaked *in water,* in foreign lands, the cattle become

fat: but, for the carrying out of this design, 'tis real Philippean *gold.*

ADVOCATI
We'll make believe it is so.

COLLYBISCUS
But do you make believe as though I were a foreigner.

ADVOCATI
Just so; and, in fact, as though you, on your arrival to-day, had asked us to show you a spot for freedom and pleasure; where you might wench, drink, *and* live like a Greek.

MILPHIO
Dear me! Crafty fellows, upon my faith!

AGORASTOCLES
But it was I who instructed them.

MILPHIO
And who you, in your turn?

COLLYBISCUS
Come, be of' in-doors, Agorastocles, lest the Procurer should see you together with me, and some accident might befall our plan.

MILPHIO
This person is extremely prudent. *To AGORASTOCLES.* Do as he bids you.

AGORASTOCLES
Let's be off. *To the ASSISTANTS.* But you-has enough been said?

COLLYBISCUS
Do you be off.

AGORASTOCLES
I'm off. Immortal Gods, I beg ——

COLLYBISCUS
Nay, but why don't you be off?

AGORASTOCLES
I'm off.

COLLYBISCUS
You do wisely. *AGORASTOCLES and MILPHIO go into the house.* Hush! be quiet.

ADVOCATI
What's the matter?

COLLYBISCUS
This door *pointing to the door of the house of LYCUS* was guilty of a great indecency just now.

ADVOCATI
What indecency is that?

COLLYBISCUS
It rumbled aloud. AsSIST. May the Deities confound you! Get you behind us.

COLLYBISCUS
Be it so. *Goes behind them.*

ADVOCATI
We'll walk first.

COLLYBISCUS
aside . They do what town-fellows are in the habit of doing: they put *worthy* men behind themselves.

ADVOCATI
pointing to the PROCURER'S house . That man that's coming out is the Procurer.

COLLYBISCUS
He's a *real* good one; for he's like a bad man. Even now, as he comes forth, I'll suck out his blood at this distance.

Enter LYCUS, from his house.

LYCUS
speaking to ANTHEMONIDES, within . I'll return here this moment, Captain. I wish to find us some fitting guests, to join us. Meanwhile, they'll bring the entrails; and at the same time, the women, I suppose, will soon be making their appearance at home after the sacrifice. But why are such a number of people coming this way? I wonder what they are bringing? He, too, in the scarf, that's following at a distance, who is he, I wonder? He is not an Ætolian.

ADVOCATI
We greet you, Lycus. Although against our will, we give you this salutation, and although in a very moderate degree do we entertain good wishes for procurers.

LYCUS
May you all be fortunate — a thing that I know for certain you neither will be, nor will Fortune permit it so to be.

ADVOCATI
That is a treasure hoarded in the tongues of fools, to deem it gainful to speak amiss to their superiors.

LYCUS
He who knows not the road by which to arrive at the sea, him it befits to seek a river as his own companion. I know not the way of speaking abusively to you. Now you are the rivers to me; you I'm resolved to follow. If you speak blessings, along your banks I'll follow you; if you utter curses, along your track I'll go.

ADVOCATI
To do good to the bad is a danger just as great as to do bad to the good.

LYCUS
But why?

ADVOCATI
You shall learn. If you do any good to the bad, the benefit is lost: if you do any bad to the good, it lasts for a length of time.

LYCUS
Cleverly said! But what does that matter to me?

ADVOCATI
Because for the sake of your own well-doing we came hither, although in a very moderate degree do we entertain good wishes for procurers.

LYCUS
If you bring anything that's good, I give you thanks.

ADVOCATI
Of our own, we neither bring nor give you anything that's good, nor do we promise you, nor, in fact, do we wish to give it.

LYCUS
I' faith, I do believe yon; such is your kindly feeling. But what now do you wish?

ADVOCATI
(pointing to COLLYBISCUS) This person in the scarf, whom you see, with him Mars is angered.

COLLYBISCUS
aside, to himself . *May he be* so indeed with your own heads!

ADVOCATI
We are now bringing him here, Lycus, to you, for tearing asunder.

COLLYBISCUS
aside, to himself . This huntsman, *myself,* will be going home to-day

with some spoil; the dogs are cleverly driving Lycus into the toils.

LYCUS
Who is this person?

ADVOCATI
We really don't know who he is, except that some time since, after daybreak, when we went down to the harbour, at the same moment we saw him landing from a merchant-ship. Disembarking, he came up to us at once — he saluted us; we answered him.

COLLYBISCUS
aside . The artful fellows! how cleverly they do enter upon the plot!

LYC. What after that?

ADVOCATI
Then he joined in discourse with us: he said that he was a foreigner, unacquainted with this city: that he wanted a convenient place to be found here, for him to indulge his appetite. We brought the man to you; if the Gods are favourable to you, it's an opportunity for you to ply your trade.

LYCUS
Is he eager to that degree?

ADVOCATI
He has got gold.

LYCUS
aside . That booty is mine.

ADVOCATI
He wishes to drink *and* wench.

LYCUS
I'll find him a nice place.

ADVOCATI
But still he wants to be quite private, in a quiet way, that no persons may know it, and that there may be no overlookers; for he has been a soldier in Sparta, as, indeed, he himself has told us, with King Attalus; from there he fled hither, when the town was surrendered.

COLLYBISCUS
aside . Very clever that, about the soldier! about Sparta, most capital!

LYCUS
in a low voice . May the Gods and Goddesses bestow many blessings on you, for having given me kindly information, and finding me a choice prey.

ADVOCATI
Aye, *and,* as he himself has told us, that you may receive him the better, he has brought three hundred Philippean pieces as a provision.

LYCUS
I'm a king if I can to-day entice this man to my house.

ADVOCATI
Nay but, he really is your own.

LYCUS
By my troth, prithee, do persuade him to take up his abode at my house, *as* the best lodging.

ADVOCATI
It befit us neither to persuade nor to dissuade a person who is a foreigner; you'll transact your own business, if you are prudent. We have brought the ringdove for you, even to the trapping-ground; now it's better for yourself to catch him, if you wish him to be caught. *They move as if going.*

LYCUS
Are you going now?

COLLYBISCUS
to the ASSISTANTS . What about the matters that I commissioned you upon, strangers?

ADVOCATI
pointing to LYCUS . It's better for you, young sir, to speak to him about your own concerns; he's clever in those matters which you are enquiring about.

COLLYBISCUS
aside . *But,* for my part, I could like you to see when I deliver him the gold.

ADVOCATI
aside . At a distance there we shall be witnesses of that.

COLLYBISCUS
to the ASSISTANTS . You've given me kind assistance. *The ASSISTANTS go out of sight.*

LYCUS
aside, so as to be heard . The profit comes to me.

COLLYBISCUS
aside, to himself . *Age,* just so, indeed, the way that the ass kicks with his heels.

LYCUS
I'll speak the fellow fairly. *To COLLYBISCUS.* A stranger salutes a stranger; I'm glad that you have arrived in safety.

COLLYBISCUS
May the Deities grant you many blessings, since you wish me well.

LYCUS
They say that you are in search of a lodging.

COLLYBISCUS

I am in search.

LYCUS
So those persons told me, who left me just now, that you are in search of one that is *free* from flies.

COLLYBISCUS
By no means in the world.

LYCUS
Why so?

COLLYBISCUS
Because if I had been looking for a retreat from the flies, on arriving here I should have straightway gone to gaol. I'm in search of this kind of lodging, where I may be treated more delicately than the eyes of King Antiochus are in the habit of being treated.

LYCUS
Upon my faith, for sure, I can provide you a charming one, if, indeed, you can put up with yourself being in a charming room, on a couch charmingly laid, a charming damsel cuddling you.

COLLYBISCUS
You are in the *right* road, Procurer.

LYCUS
Where, with Leucadian, Lesbian, Thasian, *and* Coan wine, toothless with old age, you may soak yourself. There I'll quite drench you with the effusion of unguents. Why many words? I'll cause, when you've bathed, the bathkeeper to set up unguent-shop there. But *speaking confidentially* all these things that I have mentioned let out their services for pay.

COLLYBISCUS
Why so?

LYCUS

Because they demand ready money.

COLLYBISCUS
Why, upon my faith, you are not more ready to receive than I to give.

LYCUS
Why then follow me in-doors.

COLLYBISCUS
Lead me in-doors, then; you've got me devoted *to your will. The ASSISTANTS come forward. LYCUS and COLLYBISCUS go apart.*

ADVOCATI
among themselves . What if we call Agorastocles hither out of doors, that he himself may be his own witness, past all exception? *They go to the door of AGORASTOCLES and call out, in a loud whisper.* Hallo! you that are to catch the thief, come out quickly, that you yourself may witness him giving the gold to the Procurer.

Enter AGORASTOCLES, in haste, from his house.

AGORASTOCLES
What's the matter? What is it you want, witnesses?

ADVOCATI
Look to the right hand; your servant is paying gold to the Procurer himself.

COLLYBISCUS
apart to LYCUS . Come, take this, will you: here are three hundred gold coins, counted out, which are called Philippeans. *Gives him the bay.* With these do you provide for me. I wish these to be spent with all speed.

LYCUS
By my troth, you have found a lavish steward for yourself. Come, let's away in-doors.

COLLYBISCUS
I follow you.

LYCUS
Well, well, walk on; and then we'll talk together about the other matters that remain.

COLLYBISCUS
As for me, I'll tell you about the Spartan affairs.

LYCUS
Why then follow me.

COLLYBISCUS
Lead me in-doors; lead me in, you have got me made over to you.
They go into the house of LYCUS.

AGORASTOCLES
What do you advise me now?

ADVOCATI
To be moderate.

AGORASTOCLES
What if my feelings will not let me be?

ADVOCATI
Then be as they will let you.

AGORASTOCLES
Did you see it, when the Procurer received the money?

ADVOCATI
We saw it.

AGORASTOCLES
Did you know that he is my slave?

ADVOCATI

We knew it.

AGORASTOCLES
That it is a thing against the reiterated laws of the people?

ADVOCATI
We knew it.

AGORASTOCLES
Well then, all these things I wish you to keep in memory before the Prætor by-and-by, when occasion shall come.

ADVOCATI
We remember them.

AGORASTOCLES
What if, while the matter has so recently happened, I knock at the door?

ADVOCATI
I think *you ought.*

AGORASTOCLES
If I do knock, he won't open it.

ADVOCATI
Then break the pannel.

AGORASTOCLES
If the Procurer comes out, do you think I ought to enquire of the fellow whether my slave has come to him or not?

ADVOCATI
Why not?

AGORASTOCLES
With two hundred golden Philippean pieces?

ADVOCATI

Why not?

AGORASTOCLES
Then the Procurer will be going astray at once.

ADVOCATI
About what matter?

AGORASTOCLES
Do you ask? Because a less sum will be named by one hundred pieces.

ADVOCATI
You judge rightly.

AGORASTOCLES
He'll think that some other person is being looked after.

ADVOCATI
No doubt.

AGORASTOCLES
He'll be denying it at once.

ADVOCATI
On his oath even.

AGORASTOCLES
The fellow will involve himself in the guilt of theft ——

ADVOCATI
Beyond a doubt, it certainly is so.

AGORASTOCLES
Of however much it is that shall have been brough to him.

ADVOCATI
Why not?

AGORASTOCLES
Jupiter confound you!

ADVOCATI
Why not your own self?

AGORASTOCLES
going towards the door of LYCUS . I'll go and knock at this door.

ADVOCATI
Even so. Why not?

AGORASTOCLES
It's time to be quiet, for the door makes a noise. I see the Procurer Lycus coming out of doors; come this way, pray!

ADVOCATI
Why not? But, if you please, cover up our heads, that the Procurer mayn't know us, who have been his decoyers into so great a calamity. *He throws the lappets of their garments over their heads.*

Enter LYCUS, from his house.

LYCUS
to himself . Let all soothsayers go hang themselves now at once. Why should I believe them in future, as to what they say? For they, just now at the sacrifice, told me that evil and the greatest disaster was portended to me. I have since then amplified my fortune with profit.

AGORASTOCLES
accosting him . Save you, Procurer.

LYCUS
May the Gods bless you, Agorastocles.

AGORASTOCLES
You now salute me more kindly than hitherto.

LYCUS
A calm has come, as though to a ship at sea. Just as the wind is, to that quarter is the sail shifted.

AGORASTOCLES
May those ladies be well in your house, to whom I wish it, but to yourself I do not wish it.

LYCUS
They are well, as you desire; not for you, though.

AGORASTOCLES
Send your Adelphasium to my house, to-day, please, upon this celebrated and famous festival, the Aphrodisia.

LYCUS
Have you been breakfasting on a hot breakfast today? Tell me.

AGORASTOCLES
Why so?

LYCUS
Because now you are *only* cooling your mouth, when you ask me.

AGORASTOCLES
Attend to this, Procurer, will you; I've heard that my slave is at your house.

LYCUS
At my house? You'll find that has never been the fact.

AGORASTOCLES
You lie; for he has come to your house, and carried off some gold there. Word has been brought me to that effect, by persons I fully believe. *Pointing to the ASSISTANTS.*

LYCUS
You are an artful fellow: you've come to entrap me with *your*

witnesses. There's no one of your people in my house, nor anything of yours.

AGORASTOCLES
turning round to the ASSISTANTS . Remember that, assistants.

ADVOCATI
We will remember it.

LYCUS
laughing . Ha, ha, ha! I now understand how it is, I've this instant seen through it. These persons, who a short time since introduced that Spartan stranger to me, their brain is now fired at it, because I'm going to make a gain of these three hundred Philippean pieces; now, because they knew that this person was an enemy of mine, they have set him on to say that his slave, together with his gold, is in my house. It's a planned contrivance for them to deprive me of it, and to divide it among themselves. They are wanting to get away the lamb from the wolf. They are wasting their pains.

AGORASTOCLES
What, do you deny that either the gold or my slave is at your house?

LYCUS
I do deny it; and, if it's of any use, I make myself hoarse with denying it.

ADVOCATI
You are undone, Procurer; for that person whom we told you was a Spartan, is his bailiff; who brought you just now the three hundred Philippean pieces; and that same gold, too, is in his purse.

LYCUS
shaking his fist at them . Woe unto you!

ADVOCATI
That, indeed, is close at hand for yourself.

AGORASTOCLES
Come, you hang-dog, give up the purse this instant. You are clearly a thief; caught by me in the fact. *(To the ADVOCATI.)* By my troth, I do beg of you, lend me your aid, so as to see me bring my slave out of his house. *He goes into the PROCURER'S house.*

LYCUS
I' faith, I'm now undone for certain, beyond a doubt! This has been done on purpose that a snare might be laid for me. But why do I hesitate to betake me hence to utter perdition, before I'm dragged off to the Prætor by the throat? Alas! what soothsayers I've been having for my diviners, who, if they promise anything that's fair, it comes to pass but slowly; that which they promise as unfortunate, comes directly. Now I'll be off: I'll consult my friends in what way — they deem it best in especial for me to hang myself. *(Exit.)*

Enter AGORASTOCLES, from the house of LYCUS, driving out COLLYBISCUS.

AGORASTOCLES
Be off you, get out you, that the witnesses may see you coining out from here. Isn't this my servant? *To the ASSISTANTS.*

COLLYBISCUS
I' faith, I really am, Agorastocles.

AGORASTOCLES
How now, villanous Procurer?

ADVOCATI
He, with whom you have the dispute, has made off.

AGORASTOCLES
I hope he's gone hence to utter perdition.

ADVOCATI
It's proper that we should wish the same.

AGORASTOCLES
To-morrow I'll bring my action against the fellow.

COLLYBISCUS
Anything further with me —— ?

AGORASTOCLES
You may go; put on your own dress.

COLLYBISCUS
It wasn't for nothing that I turned soldier. I made a little booty in-doors. While the household of the Procurer was asleep, I got myself well filled with the entrails. I'll be off from here in-doors.

AGORASTOCLES
to the ASSISTANTS . 'Twas kindly done by you. Assistants, you have lent me your good services. To-morrow morning I beg you'll meet me at the court of justice. *To COLLYBISCUS.* Do you follow me in-doors. *To the ASSISTANTS.* To you, farewell!

ADVOCATI
And you, farewell! *(AGORASTOCLES goes into his house, followed by COLLYBISCUS.)* This fellow wants a thing that's notoriously unfair; he thinks that we are to serve him at our own expense. But such are all these rich people of ours: if you do anything of service, their thanks are lighter than a feather; if there's any offence, they show vengeance like lead. Let's now go to our houses, if you like, forthwith, since we've effected that for which we lent our services, to ruin this corrupter of our fellow-citizens. *(Exeunt.)*

ACT IV.

Enter MILPHIO.

MILPHIO
I'm awaiting in what way my plot is to proceed. I'm bent upon ruining this Procurer, since he torments my afflicted master; but he in his turn beats me, *and* strikes me with his fist *and* heels. It's a misery to be in the service of one who is in love, especially one who is debarred from *the object* which he woos. Heyday! I see Syncerastus, the Procurer's servant, betaking himself from the Temple. I'll listen to what he has to say. *He stands aside.*

Enter SYNCERASTUS, with some cooking utensils, from the Temple of Venus.

SYNCERASTUS
to himself It's quite clear that Gods and men neglect the benefit of him who has a master like a person of such character as I have *for a master.* There's not another person anywhere in the world more perjured or more wicked than is my master, nor one so filthy or so defiled with dirt. So may the Gods bless me, I'd rather pass my life either in the stone quarries or at the mill, with my sides hampered with heavy irons, than pass this servitude with a Procurer. What a race this is! What corruptors of men they are! Ye Gods, by our hopes in you, every kind of men you may see there, just as though you had come to Acheron — horse *and* foot, a freed-man, a thief, or a runaway, *if* you choose, one whipped, chained, *or* condemned *to slavery.* He who has got *money* to pay, whatever sort of person he is — all kinds are taken in; throughout all the house, in consequence, are darkened spots *and* hiding-places: drinking *and* eating are going on, just as though in a cookshop, *and* in no less degree. There may you see epistles written in letters inscribed on pottery, *and* sealed with pitch: the names are upon them in letters a cubit long; such a *perfect* levy on vintners have we got at our house.

MILPHIO

apart . Upon my faith, it is quite wonderful, if his master doesn't make him his heir; for really, the way he soliloquizes, he's making a speech over him *as though* dead and gone. I'd both like to accost the fellow, and yet I listen to him with extreme delight.

SYNCERASTUS
to himself . When I see these things going on, I'm vexed that slaves, purchased at the heaviest price, should at our house be robbed of the savings which ought to go to their masters. But at last nothing is left visible: "badly gotten, badly gone."

MILPHIO
apart . This man goes on talking quite as though he himself were an honest fellow, when, upon my faith, he himself is able to make worthlessness more worthless.

SYNCERASTUS
to himself . Now I'm taking home these vessels from the Temple of Venus, where with his sacrifice my master has not been able to propitiate Venus on her festive day.

MILPHIO
apart . Charming Venus!

SYNCERASTUS
to himself . But our Courtesans, with their first ictims, appeased Venus in an instant.

MILPHIO
O charming Venus, once again!

SYNCERASTUS
moving . Now I'll go home.

MILPHIO
coming forward . Hallo! Syncerastus!

SYNCERASTUS

looking around . Who's calling Syncerastus?

MILPHIO
Your friend.

SYNCERASTUS
You don't act like a friend, in causing me delay when I've got a burden.

MILPHIO
But in return for this matter I'll lend you my aid, when you please, *and* when you give me your commands. Consider the agreement signed.

SYNCERASTUS
If so it is to be, I'll give you my services in this ——

MILPHIO
In what way?

SYNCERASTUS
Why that, when I'm to have a beating, you yourself may substitute your hide.

MILPHIO
Get along with you.

SYNCERASTUS
I don't understand what sort of person you are.

MILPHIO
I'm good for nothing.

SYNCERASTUS
Be so to yourself, *then.*

MILPHIO
I want you.

SYNCERASTUS
But my burden is pressing me.

MILPHIO
Then, do you set it down, and turn your face to me.

SYNCERASTUS
I'll do *so,* although I have no leisure. *Putts down his load.*

MILPHIO
Save you, Syncerastus.

SYNCERASTUS
O Milphio, may all the Gods and Goddesses favour ——

MILPHIO
What person, pray?

SYNCERASTUS
Neither you, nor me, Milphio, nor my own master, in fact.

MILPHIO
Whom are they to favour, then?

SYNCERASTUS
Any one else they please; for not one of us is de serving of it.

MILPHIO
You speak wittily.

SYNCERASTUS
It befits me *to do so.*

MILPHIO
What are you doing?

SYNCERASTUS
I'm doing that which, clearly, adulterers don't generally do.

MILPHIO
What's that?

SYNCERASTUS
Bringing all off in safety.

MILPHIO
May the Gods confound you and your master!

SYNCERASTUS
May they not confound me. I could make them ruin him, if I chose — ruin my master, did I not fear for myself, Milphio.

MILPHIO
What is it? Tell me.

SYNCERASTUS
You are a bad one.

MILPHIO
I am a bad one.

SYNCERASTUS
It goes *but* badly with me.

MILPHIO
Just tell me, *then;* you ought to be in quite other plight. Why is it that it goes badly with you, who have at home in superabundance what to eat, *and* what to drink? You don't give a single three-obol piece away to a mistress, and have her for nothing.

SYNCERASTUS
May Jupiter so love me ——

MILPHIO
I' faith, in the degree that you deserve, to wit.

SYNCERASTUS

How I do long for this family to come to ruin.

MILPHIO
If you long for it, lend your aid.

SYNCERASTUS
Without feathers it isn't easy to fly: my wings have got no feathers.

MILPHIO
Troth, *then,* don't pluck out *any hairs;* then, in the next two months, your arm-pits will be fit for flying.

SYNCERASTUS
Away to utter perdition!

MILPHIO
Away yourself, and your master!

SYNCERASTUS
But, really, if a person knew him well, the fellow might soon be ruined.

MILPHIO
Why so?

SYNCERASTUS

* * * Just as though you could be silent on any matter.

MILPHIO
I'll keep the matter more strictly secret for you than that which has been told to a dumb woman.

SYNCERASTUS
I could easily bring my mind to believe you there, if I did not know you.

MILPHIO
Trust me boldly at my own peril.

SYNCERASTUS
I shall trust you to my cost, and still I will trust you.

MILPHIO
Don't you know that your master is a mortal enemy of my master?

SYNCERASTUS
I know it.

MILPHIO
By reason of the love affair?

SYNCERASTUS
You are losing all your pains.

MILPHIO
Why so?

SYNCERASTUS
Because you are teaching one that has been taught.

MILPHIO
Why, then, do you doubt that my master will do a mischief to your master with pleasure, so far as he can do, with his deserving it? Then besides, if you lend some assistance, on that account he'll be able to do it the more easily.

SYNCERASTUS
But I'm afraid of this, Milphio ——

MILPHIO
What is it that you're afraid of?

SYNCERASTUS
That while I'm preparing the plot against my master, I may be betrayed by yourself. If my master knows that I've been talking to any individual, he'll forthwith be making me from Syncerastus into Brokenlegs.

MILPHIO
On my word, never shall any mortal be made the wiser by me; only to my master alone will I tell it; and to him, too, *in such a way* that he shall not disclose that this matter originated in yourself.

SYNCERASTUS
I shall trust you at my peril, and yet I will trust you. But do you keep this a secret to yourself.

MILPHIO
To Faith *herself* it is not more safely confided. Speak out boldly (there's room and opportunity); we are here alone.

SYNCERASTUS
If your master chooses to act with caution, he'll prove the ruin of my master.

MILPHIO
How can that be?

SYNCERASTUS
Easily.

MILPHIO
Then let me be acquainted with this "easily," that he may know it *as well.*

SYNCERASTUS
Because Adelphasium, whom your master dotes on is free by birth.

MILPHIO
In what way?

SYNCERASTUS
In the same way that her other sister Anterastylis is.

MILPHIO
But how am I to believe that?

SYNCERASTUS
Because he bought them at Anactorium, when little children, of a Sicilian pirate.

MILPHIO
For how much?

SYNCERASTUS
For eighteen minæ.

MILPHIO
with an air of surprise . These two for eighteen *minæ?*

SYNCERASTUS
And their nurse for the third. He, too, who sold them told him that he was selling persons who had been kidnapped: he said that they were free-born, *and* from Carthage.

MILPHIO
Ye Gods, by our hopes in you! you mention a most interesting matter; for my master Agorastocles was born in the same place; he was stolen thence when about six years old; after that, the person who stole him brought him here and sold him to my master; that person adopted him *as heir* to his wealth, when he departed this life.

SYNCERASTUS
You mention everything that can render it the more easy; let him assert their freedom, his own countrywomen, in an action on their freedom.

MILPHIO
Only do keep silence and hold your tongue.

SYNCERASTUS
He certainly will bring the Procurer to a backgammon, if he gets them away.

MILPHIO

Nay but, I'll cause him to be ruined before he moves one foot; 'tis so contrived *already.*

SYNCERASTUS
May the Gods grant it so, that I don't continue the slave of this Procurer.

MILPHIO
On the contrary, upon my faith, I'll cause you to be a free man with myself, if the Gods are willing.

SYNCERASTUS
May the Gods grant it so! Do you detain me for anything else, Milphio?

MILPHIO
Fare you well, and may happiness attend you.

SYNCERASTUS
I' faith, that lies in the power of yourself and your master. Farewell, and mind that *these* things have been told in secrecy.

MILPHIO
This has not been mentioned *even.* Farewell.

SYNCERASTUS
But really it's of no use, unless this is done while it is warm.

MILPHIO
You are right in your advice, and so it shall be done.

SYNCERASTUS
There's excellent material, if you provide an excellent workman.

MILPHIO
Can't you hold your tongue?

SYNCERASTUS

I'll hold my tongue and be off.

MILPHIO
A *grand* opportunity you've made for me. *SYNCERASTUS goes into the house of LYCUS.* He's gone from here. The immortal Gods do will my master to be preserved, and this Procurer utterly ruined; a mischief so great is impending upon him. Is it not the fact, before one weapon has been launched, then another presses upon him? I'll go in-doors, that I may recount these matters to my master. For if I were to call him out hither before the house, and, what you've *to the AUDIENCE* just heard, if I were now here to repeat the same, it would be folly. I'd rather in-doors be an annoyance to my master singly, than be *so* here to all of you. Immortal Gods, what misfortunes, what great calamities do this day await this Procurer. But now there's no reason why I should delay. This business is resolved upon; no pausing is allowed; for both this must be cleverly managed, which has just now been entrusted to me, and that plan as well which was formed at home must be attended to. If there's any delay, he who sends me a heavy mischance will be acting rightly. Now I'll off in-doors; until my master comes from the Forum, I'll wait at home. *Goes into the house of AGORASTOCLES.*

ACT V.

Enter HANNO, followed at a distance by his SERVANTS.

HANNO
to himself . Hyth alonim vualonuth sicorathi si ma com sith, Chi mach chumyth mumys tyal mictibariim ischi, Lipho canet luth bynuthi ad ædin bynuthii. Birnarob syllo homalonin uby misyrthoho Bythym mothym noctothii velech Antidasmachon. Yssidele berim thyfel yth chylys chon, tern, lyphul Uth bynim ysdibut thinno cuth ru Agorastocles Ythe manet ihy * * chyrsæ lycoch sith naso Byuni id chil luhili gerbylim lasibit thym Bodyalyth herayn nyn nuys lym moncoth lusim. [Exalonim volanus succuratim mistim Atticum esse Concubitum a bello cutim beant lalacant chona Enus es huiec silec panesse Athidamascon Alem * * induberte felono * * buthume Celtum comucro lueni, at enim avoso uber Bent hyach Aristoclem et se te aneche nasoctelia Elicos alemus [in] duberter mi comps vespiti Aodeanee lictor bodes jussum limnicolus.]

Enter AGORASTOCLES, from his house, followed by MILPHIO.

AGORASTOCLES
in a loud voice . Do you say, Milphio, that Syncerastus told you that both of these women were freeborn, *and* stolen away from Carthage?

MILPHIO
I do say so; and if you were willing to act wisely, you'd at once assert their liberty by an action on their freedom. For it's a disgrace to you for you to allow your own country-people to be slaves before your eyes, who were free women at home.

HANNO
overhearing, apart . O ye immortal Gods, I do entreat your aid! What speech is this that my ears devour! Surely the words of these persons are *made of* chalk; how have they cleansed away all the dark spots *of woe* from me!

AGORASTOCLES
If you've got witnesses of this matter, I'll do as you bid me.

MILPHIO
Why *speak* you to me about witnesses? Why don't you stoutly insist upon it? Some way or other, Fortune will be your assistant.

AGORASTOCLES
It's much more easy to begin a thing than to bring it about.

MILPHIO
catching sight of HANNO, attended by his SERVANTS . But what bird is this, pray, that's coming hither with the tunic on? Is he from the baths, I wonder, enveloped in his cloak? I' faith, the countenance is surely Carthaginian. The man's a Gugga. I' faith, he certainly has got some ancient and antiquated servants.

AGORASTOCLES
How do you know?

MILPHIO
Don't you see the fellows following, loaded with luggage? And, as I fancy, they've got no fingers on their hands.

AGORASTOCLES
Why so?

MILPHIO
Why, because they go with their rings in their ears. I'll approach them, and address them in the Punic language: if they answer, I'll continue to speak in the Punic tongue if not, then I'll adapt my language to their usage. How say you, do you still remember anything of the Punic language?

AGORASTOCLES
Nothing at all, i' faith; for tell me, how could I know, who was but six years old when I was stolen away from Carthage?

HANNO
apart . O ye immortal Gods! very many freeborn children have been lost from Carthage after this manner.

MILPHIO
How say you?

AGORASTOCLES
What do you want?

MILPHIO
Should you like me to address this person in the Punic tongue?

AGORASTOCLES
Do you understand it?

MILPHIO
No Punic man this day is a better Punic than I.

AGORASTOCLES
Go and address him, as to what he wants, why he's come, who he is, of what country, *and* whence he comes. Don't be sparing *of your questions.*

MILPHIO
addressing HANNO and his SERVANTS. Avo! Of what country are you, or from what city?

HANNO
Hanno Muthumballe bachaëdreanech.

AGORASTOCLES
What does he say?

MILPHIO
He says that he is Hanno from Carthage, a Carthaginian, son of Muthumbal.

HAN. Avo! MIL.
He salutes us.

HANNO
Donni.

MILPHIO
He intends to present you with some " donation" out of this; what, I don't know. Don't you hear him promise?

AGORASTOCLES
Salute him again in Punic, in my name.

MILPHIO
to HANNO . "Avo donni" he tells me *to say* to you in his name. *Pointing to AGORASTOCLES.*

HANNO
Mehar bocca!

MILPHIO
Be that for yourself rather than me!

AGORASTOCLES
What does he say?

MILPHIO
He declares that his "box" for his teeth is painful. Perhaps he takes us to be doctors.

AGORASTOCLES
If it is so, tell him that we are not; I don't wish a stranger to be mistaken.

MILPHIO
to HANNO . Hear you. Rufen nuco istam.

AGORASTOCLES

This is my wish, that in fact everything should be explained to him just as it is. Ask him whether he has need of anything.

MILPHIO
to HANNO . You who have got no girdle, why have you come to this city, or what is it you seek?

HANNO
Muphursa.

AGORASTOCLES
What is it he says?

HANNO
Moin lechianna.

AGORASTOCLES
Why has he come?

MILPHIO
Don't you hear? He declares that he is wishful to give African mice to the Ædiles as a show at the games.

HANNO
Lalech lachananim liminichot.

AGORASTOCLES
What does he say now?

MILPHIO
He says he has brought latchets, water- channels, and nuts; he's now begging that you'll lend him your assistance in having them sold.

AGORASTOCLES
He is a merchant, I suppose?

HANNO
Is amar binam.

AGORASTOCLES
What is it *he says?*

HANNO
Palum erga dectha.

AGORASTOCLES
Milphio, what is he saying now?

MILPHIO
He says that he has got spades and forks given him for sale, for digging the garden and reaping the corn.

AGORASTOCLES
What *is* that to me?

MILPHIO
He wishes you to be informed *of it,* so that you mayn't suppose that he has taken anything secretly *and* by stealth. He has really, I do believe, been sent here to your harvesting.

HANNO
Muphonium sucoraim.

MILPHIO
So there! do take care, please, how you do what he's begging of you.

AGORASTOCLES
What is he saying, or what is he begging? Explain it.

MILPHIO
For you to order him to be placed beneath a hurdle, and for many stones to be heaped upon it, so as to put him to death.

HANNO
Gunebel balsamen ierasan!

AGORASTOCLES

Tell me what it is that he's saying.

MILPHIO
I' faith, now I really don't at all know.

HANNO
speaking in their own language . But that you may know, now from this moment henceforth will I speak Latin. *To MILPHIO.* Upon my faith, you must be a worthless and bad servant, to be laughing at a person, a foreigner and a stranger.

MILPHIO
But, i' faith, at yourself a person that's both a swindler and a cheat, who have come here to take us in, you half-and-half Lybian, you double-tongue, just like a crawling reptile.

AGORASTOCLES
to MILPHIO . Away hence with your abusiveness! do restrain your tongue. You'll keep it from uttering abuse, if you are prudent; I don't want you to be speaking harshly to my kinsmen. I was born at Carthage; do you remember that.

HANNO
O my fellow-countryman, greetings to you!

AGORASTOCLES
And you, troth, whoever you are; and if you have need of anything, pray mention it, and command me for the sake of our common country.

HANNO
I return you thanks; but I've got a place of entertainment here; I'm in search of the son of Antidamas; do point me out Agorastocles, if you know him. Do you know any young man here *named* Agorastocles?

AGORASTOCLES
If, indeed, you are in search of the adopted son of Antidamas, I am the very person whom you are in search of.

HANNO
starting . Hah! what's that I hear?

AGORASTOCLES
That I am the son of Antidamas.

HANNO
If so it is, if you would like to compare the token of hospitality, see here, I've brought it. *Shows him the ticket.*

AGORASTOCLES
Come then, show it here. *He takes it in his hand, and looks at it.* It is exactly true; for I've got *the counterpart* at home.

HANNO
O my host, hail to you right earnestly; for it was your father, then, Antidamas, that was my own and my father's guest; this was my token of hospitality with him.

AGORASTOCLES
Then here at my house shall hospitality be shown you; for I don't reject *either* Hospitality or Carthage, from which I sprang.

HANNO
May the Gods grant you all you may desire. How say you? How could it happen that you were born at Carthage, but had a father of Ætolia here?

AGORASTOCLES
I was stolen away from there; this Antidamas, your guest, bought me, and adopted me as his son.

HANNO
He himself, likewise, was adopted by Demarchus, But about him I say no more, and return to you. Tell me, de you at all remember the names of your parents?

AGORASTOCLES

I remember my father and my mother's *name.*

HANNO
Repeat them, then, to me, *to see* if I know them, perchance, or if they are relatives of mine.

AGORASTOCLES
Ampsigura was my mother, *and* Iachon my father.

HANNO
I could wish that your father and mother were alive.

AGORASTOCLES
Are they dead?

HANNO
So it is, *a thing* which I bore with much grief; for your mother Ampsigura was my cousin-german; your father — he was my uncle's son, and when he died he made me his heir; of whom being deprived by death, I am greatly affected. But if it is the fact that you *really* are the son of Sachon, there ought to be a mark upon your left hand, a bite which an ape gave you when a child, playing *with it.* Show *it,* that I may look at it; open *your hand.*

AGORASTOCLES
opening his hand. Look, if you like; see, there it is. My kinsman, welcome to you!

HANNO
And welcome to you, Agorastocles! I seem to myself to be born again, in having found you.

MILPHIO
By my troth, I'm delighted that this matter has fallen out *so* happily foryou. *To HANNO.* And would you decline to take advice?

HANNO
Really, I should wish *to be advised.*

MILPHIO
His father's property ought to be restored to the son; it's fair that he should have the property which his father possessed.

HANNO
I wish no otherwise; everything shall be restored. I'll give his own property to him all safe, when he comes there.

MILPHIO
Take care and restore it, will you, even though he should live here still.

HANNO
Nay but, he shall have my own as well, if anything should happen to me.

MILPHIO
A pleasant project has just now come into my mind,

HANNO
What's that?

MILPHIO
There's need of your assistance.

HANNO
Tell me what you wish. Really, you shall have my services just as you please. What is the business?

MILPHIO
Can you act the cheat?

HANNO
Towards an enemy, I can; to a friend, it would be *mere* folly.

MILPHIO
I' faith, it is an enemy of his. *Pointing at AGORASTOCLES.*

HANNO
I could do him a mischief with pleasure.

MILPHIO
He's in love with a person who belongs to a Procurer.

HANNO
I deem that he acts discreetly.

MILPHIO
This Procurer lives close at hand.

HANNO
I could do him a mischief with pleasure.

MILPHIO
He has two slave girls, courtesans, sisters; one of these he is desperately in love with, nor has he ever taker any liberties with her.

HANNO
It's an unhappy kind of passion.

MILPHIO
The Procurer plays upon him.

HANNO
He's enhancing his own profits thereby.

MILPHIO
He wishes to do him an evil turn.

HANNO
He's right, if he does do it.

MILPHIO
Now I adopt this plan, and prepare this contrivance, that we should. cite you; you are to affirm that they are your daughters, and that they were stolen when little from Carthage, and to maintain the cause of

both in an action on their freedom, as though they were both your own daughters. Do you understand?

HANNO
On my faith, I do understand; for I likewise did have two daughters who were stolen away when little children, together with their nurse.

MILPHIO
Upon my word, you do feign it cleverly. At the very commencement this amuses me.

HANNO
aside, weeping . Much more, i' troth, than I could wish.

MILPHIO
aside to AGORASTOCLES . Dear me! a subtle person, upon my word, artful and knowing, both tricky and crafty! How he does whimper, in order that with his gestures he may effect this all the more easily. Even myself, now, the master-workman, does he excel in skill.

HANNO
But their nurse, of what appearance was she? Tell me.

MILPHIO
Of stature not tall, of a dusky complexion.

HANNO
'Tis the very person.

MILPHIO
Of agreable form, with a *small* mouth, and very dark eyes.

HANNO
I' faith, you really have depicted her form exactly in your words.

MILPHIO
Should you like to see her?

HANNO
I'd rather *see* my daughters. Still, go and call her out of doors. If they are my daughters, if she is their nurse, she'll recognize me at once.

MILPHIO
knocking at the door of the PROCURER'S house . Hallo there! is there any one here? Tell Giddeneme to come out of doors; there's a person wants to see her.

Enter GIDDENEME and a BOY, from the house.

GIDDENEME
Who is it that knocks?

MILPHIO
One that's a near acquaintance of yours.

GIDDENEME
What do you want?

MILPHIO
Come now *pointing to HANNO* , do you know that person in the tunic, who it is?

GIDDENEME
Why, whom do I behold? O supreme Jupiter! this sure is my master, the father of my foster-children, Hanno, the Carthaginian!

MILPHIO
Now, do see the cunning *hussey* this Carthaginian is really a clever juggler; he has brought all over to his own opinion.

GIDDENEME
running up to HANNO . O my master! welcome to you, Hanno! most unhoped for by myself and your daughters, welcome to you! But look you, don't be wondering, or gazing *so* intently upon me. Don't you know Giddeneme, your female slave?

HANNO
I know *her.* But where are my daughters? That I'm longing to know.

GIDDENEME
At the Temple of Venus.

HANNO
What are they doing there? Tell me.

GIDDENEME
To-day is the Aphrodisia, the festive day of Venus! they have gone *there* to entreat the Goddess to be propitious to them.

MILPHIO
I' faith, they've fully prevailed, I'm sure, inasmuch as he has arrived here.

AGORASTOCLES
aside to GIDDENEME . How now, are these his daughters?

GIDDENEME
Just as you say. *To HANNO.* Your kindness has clearly come to our rescue, in your having arrived here to-day at the very time; for this day their names were to have been clanged, and they were to have made a livelihood, disgraceful to their station, by their persons.

A BOY.
Haudones illi.

GIDDENEME
Havon bene si illi, in mustine. Me ipsi et eneste dum et alamna cestinum.

AGORASTOCLES
What is it they are saying among themselves? Tell me.

MILPHIO
He's saluting his mother, and she this her son.

HANNO
Hold your peace, and let alone the woman's gear.

MILPHIO
What gear is that?

HANNO
Loud talking without limit. *To MILPHIO.* Do you lead these people in-doors *pointing to his SERVANTS* , and bid this nurse to come away together with you to your house.

AGORASTOCLES
to MILPHIO . Do as he requests.

GIDDENEME
to HANNO . But who's to point them out to you?

AGORASTOCLES
I *will,* right skilfully.

GIDDENEME
I'll go away then.

AGORASTOCLES
I'd only rather that you would do *so,* than say *so. She goes into the house of AGORASTOCLES.*

MILPHIO
Upon my faith, I do think that this day the very thing that I said by way of joke will be coming to pass both soberly and seriously, that these will be discovered to-day to be his daughters.

AGORASTOCLES
Troth, that very thing is quite certain now. Do you, Milphio, take them *pointing to the SERVANTS* in-doors; we'll wait here for these damsels. I wish a dinner to be got ready for my kinsman on his arrival.

MILPHIO
Lachananim you! *aside to the SERVANTS* , whom I'll just now be packing off to the mill-stones, and from there after that to the dungeon and the oaken log. I'll give you reason to praise your treatment here but slightly.

AGORASTOCLES
to HANNO . Do you hear, kinsman? I say, don't you revoke what has been said; promise me your elder daughter in marriage.

HANNO
Consider the thing as agreed on.

AGORASTOCLES
Do you promise her, then?

HANNO
I do promise her.

AGORASTOCLES
My kinsman, blessings on you! for now you are mine beyond a doubt; now at length shall I converse with her without restraint. Now, kinsman, if you wish to see your daughters, follow me.

HANNO
Why, really, this long time I've been longing for it, and I'll follow you.

AGORASTOCLES
What if we go and meet them?

HANNO
But I'm afraid lest we should pass them on the road. Great Jupiter, do now reinstate my fortunes for me as being certain instead of uncertain!

AGORASTOCLES
I trust that my charmer will be my own. But look, I catch sight of

them.

HANNO
What, are these my daughters? How tall from being such little creatures have they now become!

AGORASTOCLES
Do you know how it is? These are Grecian columns; they are wont to be erect. *They stand aside.*

Enter ADELPHASIUM and ANTERBASTYLIS, from the Temple of Venus.

ADELPHASIUM
'Twas worth the while, to-day, of him who has a taste for loveliness to afford a feast to his eyes, in coming hither to the Temple this day to see the sights. Upon my faith, I was charmed there to-day with the most elegant offerings of the courtesans, worthy of Venus, the most handsome Goddess; nor did I despise her worship this day; so great an abundance of beauteous objects was there there, each nicely arranged in its own place. The odours of Arabia and of myrrh filled everything. The festive day seemed to be affected with no gloom, Venus, nor did thy Temple; so great a throng of her dependants was there, who had come to Venus of Calydon.

ANTERASTYLIS
But certainly, as far indeed as regarded us two, sister, we were all-powerful *in our prayers,* beauteous and gainers of her favour; neither were we there held in ridicule by the young men, which, i' faith, sister, happened to all the rest.

ADELPHASIUM
I'd rather that it should so appear to other persons, than that you, sister, should praise yourself.

ANTERASTYLIS
Indeed, I trust *so.*

ADELPHASIUM
Troth, and *so do* I, when I reflect of what breeding we and the others are. We were born in that station, that it befits us to be unblemished by faultiness.

HANNO
apart . Jupiter, who dost preserve and feed the race of men, through whom we pass this mortal life, in whose hands are the hopes of life in all men, prithee, do grant this day as a prosperous one for my fortunes! Those whom I've missed for many years, and whom when little I lost from their native land, to them restore their liberty, that I may be sure that for an indomitable sense of duty there is a reward.

AGORASTOCLES
apart . I'll engage that Jove shall do it all; for to me he is indebted, and stands in awe of me.

HANNO
apart . Prithee, do hold your peace. *He weeps.*

AGORASTOCLES
apart . Kinsman, do not weep.

ANTERASTYLIS
apart . As it is a pleasure for a man, my sister, if he succeeds in anything, to have the credit of victory, just so did we this day among the rest excel *them all* in beauty.

ADELPHASIUM
Sister, you are more silly than I could wish. Prithee, do you really think yourself a beauty, if your face has not been besmeared with soot?

AGORASTOCLES
apart . O kinsman! O kinsman, dearest of all kinsmen to me!

HANNO
apart . What is it, son of my cousin? My son, tell me, what is it you

wish?

AGORASTOCLES
apart . Why, really, I do wish you to attend to this.

HANNO
apart . Why, really, I am attending to it.

AGORASTOCLES
apart . Kinsman, kinsman, dearest of all kinsmen to me!

HANNO
apart . What's the matter? AGO. *apart* . She's a clever and a nice girl. How shrewd she is!

HANNO
apart . She has her father's disposition in being shrewd.

AGORASTOCLES
apart . How's that? This long time, i' faith, she has surely used up your shrewdness. 'Tis from here *pointing to himself* she now derives her shrewdness; 'tis from here her sense; whatever she does shrewdly, through my love does she act so shrewdly.

ADELPHASIUM
We are not born of that rank, although we are slaves, sister, that it should befit us to do anything which any man may laugh at. Many are the faults of women; but of the many, this one is the greatest, to please themselves too much, and to give their attention too little to pleasing the men.

ANTERASTYLIS
It was a very great delight that was portended in our sacrifice of the entrails, sister, and what the soothsayer said about us both ——

AGORASTOCLES
apart . I wish he had said something about me!

ANTERASTYLIS
That we should be free in a few days, in spite of our owner. I don't know why I should hope for that, unless the Gods or our parents do something.

AGORASTOCLES
apart . 'Twas through confidence in me, kinsman, upon my faith, that the soothsayer promised them liberty, I'm sure *of it,* because he knows I'm in love with her.

ADELPHASIUM
Sister, follow me this way. *Moves as if going.*

ANTERASTYLIS
I follow. *Moves also.*

HANNO
stepping forward . Before you go away, I want you both. Unless it's inconvenient, stop.

ADELPHASIUM
Who's calling us back?

AGORASTOCLES
One who wishes to do you a kindness.

ADELPHASIUM
There's opportunity for doing it. But who is the person?

AGORASTOCLES
A friend of yours.

ADELPHASIUM
One> who is not an enemy, in fact.

AGORASTOCLES
This is a good man, my love.

ADELPHASIUM
I’ faith, I should prefer him rather than a bad one.

AGORASTOCLES
If, indeed, friendship must be engaged in, with such a person ought it to be engaged in.

ADELPHASIUM
I don’t beg for it.

AGORASTOCLES
He wishes to do you many services.

ADELPHASIUM
Being good *yourself* you will be doing good to the good.

HANNO
I will cause you joy ——

ADELPHASIUM
And, i’ faith, we pleasure to you.

HANNO
And liberty.

ADELPHASIUM
At that price you’ll easily make us your own.

AGORASTOCLES
My kinsman, so may the Gods bless me, if I were Jupiter, upon my faith I’d at once marry her for my wife, and pack Juno out of doors. How quietly did she utter her words, how considerately and becomingly! how modestly did she frame her speech! certainly she is my own!

HANNO
apart to AGORASTOCLES . But how skilfully I accosted her!

AGORASTOCLES
Cleverly and becomingly, upon my faith.

HANNO
Am I still to go on testing them?

AGORASTOCLES
Compress it in a few words; the people who are sitting *here* are getting thirsty.

HANNO
Well, why don't we proceed to do that which was to be done? *To the WOMEN.* I summon you to justice.

AGORASTOCLES
Seize hold of this one, kinsman, if you are wise. Should you like me to catch hold of her?

ADELPHASIUM
Is this person your kinsman, Agorastocles?

AGORASTOCLES
I'll soon let you know. Now, by my word, I'll be nicely revenged on you; for I'll make —— you my bride.

HANNO
Come before a court of justice; don't delay!

AGORASTOCLES
Summon me as your witness, and take me; I'll be a witness for you; and after that, her *pointing to ADELPHASIUM* will I love and embrace. But 'twas this, indeed, I intended to say — why yes, I did say that which I intended *to say.*

HANNO
to the DAMSELS . You are lingering. I summon you to justice, unless it is more becoming for you to be dragged *thither.*

ADELPHASIUM
Why do you summon us to justice? What are we in your debt?

AGORASTOCLES
He'll tell it there.

ADELPHASIUM
Are even my own dogs barking *at me?*

AGORASTOCLES
Then, troth, do you caress me; give me a kiss in place of a piece of meat; present your lips in place of a bone: that way I'll render this dog more smooth for you than oil.

HANNO
Come on, if you are coming.

ADELPHASIUM
What have we done to you?

HANNO
You are thieves, both of you.

ADELPHASIUM
What, we, as regards you?

HANNO
You, I say.

AGORASTOCLES
And I know it.

ADELPHASIUM
What theft is this?

AGORASTOCLES
Enquire of him.

HANNO

Because for many years you have been concealing my daughters from me, and, in fact, persons free-born, *and* free, *and* born of the highest rank.

ADELPHASIUM
I' faith, you'll never find that villany to have been committed by us.

AGORASTOCLES
Make a bet of a kiss now, if you are not forsworn, which is to give it to the other.

ADELPHASIUM
I've nothing to do with you; prithee, get you gone.

AGORASTOCLES
But, i' faith, I've got something to do with you; for he is my kinsman; it's necessary for me to be his advocate. And I'll inform him how you are guilty of many a theft, and in what way you have got his daughters *as* slaves at your house, whom you know to be free women stolen from their native land.

ADELPHASIUM
Where are these, or who are they, prithee?

AGORASTOCLES
aside to HANNO . They have been teased sufficiently.

HANNO
aside . Why not speak out, *then?*

AGORASTOCLES
aside . I' faith, I'm of that opinion, kinsman.

ADELPHASIUM
I'm dreadfully afraid what this business can mean, my sister; so astounded *am I,* I stand here without my senses.

HANNO

Damsels, give *me* your attention. In the first place, if it could possibly come to pass, for the Gods not to send upon the innocent what is undeserved, that could I have wished to happen; now for the good the Gods bestow upon me, upon yourselves and upon your nurse, 'tis due that we should give to the Deities our endless thanks, since the immortal Gods approve and reward our piety. You are my daughters, both of you, and this is your relation, Agorastocles, the son of my cousin.

ADELPHASIUM
Prithee, are they deluding us with imaginary joys?

AGORASTOCLES
Really, so may the Deities preserve me, this is your father. Give *him* your hands.

ADELPHASIUM
embracing him . Welcome, father! unhoped-for by us, allow us to embrace you!

ANTERASTYLIS
embracing him . Welcome, father! much wished and longed for! We are both your daughters; we both embrace you.

AGORASTOCLES
Who'll be for embracing me in the next place?

HANNO
Now am I happy! Now with this delight do I allay the miseries of many a year.

ADELPHASIUM
We hardly seem to believe this.

HANNO
I'll tell you something to make you believe it the more: why, it was your nurse who recognized me first.

ADELPHASIUM
Prithee, where is she?

HANNO
pointing to AGORASTOCLES . She's at his house.

AGORASTOCLES
to ADELPHASIUM, who is embracing her father . Pray, why does it please you to clasp his neck so long, before he has betrothed you to me? *Dear one,* much longed-for, blessings on you! *He embraces her.*

ADELPHASIUM
struggling . Do leave off your salutations!

AGORASTOCLES
I will leave off. And you the other one. *To ANTERASTYLIS, whom he embraces.*

ANTERASTYLIS
struggling . I don't want that; you torment me to death!

HANNO
Let us each clasp the other in our arms, than whom is there anything on earth more happy?

AGORASTOCLES
Blessings befall the deserving. *Pointing to HANNO.* At last his wishes are realized! O Apelles! O Zeuxis the painter! why did you die too soon? Would that you could paint a subject after this! For I don't care for other *common* painters to be treating subjects of this description.

HANNO
Gods and Goddesses all! I return you deservedly extreme thanks, for having blest me with this gladness so supreme and with these joys so great; as my daughters have returned to me *and* into my possession.

ADELPHASIUM

My father, your own piety has clearly come to our aid.

AGORASTOCLES
Kinsman, take care and keep it in memory that you've betrothed your elder daughter to me ——

HANNO
I remember it.

AGORASTOCLES
The portion, too, that you promised.

Enter ANTHEMONIDES, from the house of LYCUS.

ANTHEMONIDES
to himself . If I don't take full revenge for that mina which I gave to the Procurer, then really may the townspeople make a butt of me! This most rascally fellow even brought me to his house to breakfast. He himself went away out of doors, *and* left me as his chamberlain in the house. When neither the Procurer nor these women came back, nor anything was given me to eat, for the best part of the breakfast I took a pledge, *and* came out of doors. This way I'll pay him. I'll touch up the rascally Procurer in the military way of payment. He did get hold of a person for him to bamboozle out of a mina of silver! But I wish that my mistress would now come in my way while *thus* enraged. Then, by my troth, with my fists I'd make her *quite* black all over; I'd cover her so with swarthiness, that she should be much more swarthy than the Egyptians, or *than those* who carry the buckets at the games in the Circus.

ADELPHASIUM
running to AGORASTOCLES . Do hold me fast, please, my love; I sadly fear the kites; this is an evil animal — lest perchance he may carry me off, your chick.

ANTERASTYLIS
embracing her FATHER . I cannot clasp you fast enough, my father!

ANTHEMONIDES
to himself . I'm delaying. *Looking in his hand.* I can now pretty nearly cater a breakfast for myself with this. *Raising his eyes.* But what's this? How's this? What's this? What's this I see? How now? What means this strange conjunction? What's this coupling together? Who's this fellow with the long skirts, just like a tavern-boy? Do I quite see with my eyes? Isn't this my mistress, Anterastylis? Why, surely it is she. For some time past I've perceived that I'm set at nought. Isn't the girl ashamed to be hugging a tawny fellow in the middle of the street? I faith, I shall give him up forthwith to the executioner to be tortured all over. Surely this is a womanish race, with their tunics hanging down to their heels. But I'm determined to accost this African female lover. *To HANNO.* Hallo! you woman, I say, are you not ashamed? What business have you with her, pray? Tell me.

HANNO
Young man, greetings to you.

ANTHEMONIDES
I don't want *them;* that's nothing to you. What business have you to touch her with a finger?

HANNO
Because I choose.

ANTHEMONIDES
You choose?

HANNO
I say so.

ANTHEMONIDES
Away to utter perdition, you shoe-latchet! What, do you dare to be *acting* the lover here, you great toe of a man, or to be meddling with an object which masculine men are fond of, you skinnea pilchard, you *deformed image of* Serapis, you half-apron, you sheepskin-jacket, you pot of *stinking* sea-salt; more crammed, too, to boot, with

leeks and garlick than the Roman rowers?

AGORASTOCLES
Young man, do your jaws or *your* teeth itch, that you are annoying this person, or are you in search of a heavy mishap?

ANTHEMONIDES
Why didn't you use a drum while you were saying that? For I take you to be more of an effeminate wretch than a *real* man.

AGORASTOCLES
Do you understand what sort of effeminate wretch I am? *Calling aloud.* Servants, come out of doors, bring out some cudgels!

ANTHEMONIDES
Hark you, if I have said anything in a joke, don't you be for taking it seriously.

ANTERASTYLIS
Prithee, what pleasure have you, Anthemonides, in speaking rudely to our kinsman and father? For this is our father; he has just now recognized us, and him *as* the son of his cousin.

ANTHEMONIDES
So may Jupiter kindly bless me, I heartily rejoice that it is so, and I am delighted, if, in fact, any great misfortune befalls this Procurer, and since a fortune awaits you equal to your merits.

ANTERASTYLIS
I' faith, he says what's worthy of belief; do believe him, my father.

HANNO
I do believe him.

AGORASTOCLES
And I believe him. But look *pointing* , I espy the Procurer Lycus, the worthy fellow; look, there he is — he's betaking himself homeward.

HANNO
Who is this?

AGORASTOCLES
He's which you please, both the Procurer and Lycus. He has been keeping your daughters in servitude, and from myself he has stolen some gold.

HANNO
A pretty fellow for you to be acquainted with!

AGORASTOCLES
Let's bring him to justice.

HANNO
By no means.

AGORASTOCLES
For what reason?

HANNO
Because 'twere better for an action of damages to be brought against him.

Enter LYCUS.

LYCUS
to himself . No one, in my opinion at least, is deceived, who rightly states his case to his friends. But by all my friends the one same thing is agreed upon, that I ought to hang myself, so as not to be adjudged to Agorastocles.

AGORASTOCLES
stepping forward . Procurer, let's away to the court of justice.

LYCUS
I do entreat you, Agorastocles, that I may be at liberty to hang myself.

HANNO
I summon you to justice.

LYCUS
But what have you to do with me?

HANNO
pointing at his DAUGHTERS . Because I affirm that both of these are my daughters, free women, and free by birth, who, when little, were kidnapped together with their nurse.

LYCUS
Indeed, I knew that already, and I wondered that no one came to assert their freedom; they really are none of mine, indeed.

ANTHEMONIDES
Procurer, you must come to justice.

LYCUS
You are talking about the breakfast; it is owing to you; I'll give it.

AGORASTOCLES
Twofold *compensation* I must have for the theft.

LYCUS
pointing to his neck . Take it out of this, then.

HANNO
And I *require* a full satisfaction.

LYCUS
pointing to his neck . Take out of this whatever you please. ANTH. And I, indeed, a mina of silver.

LYCUS
pointing to his neck . Take out of this whatever you please. I'll at once settle the matter for all with my neck, just like a porter.

AGORASTOCLES
Do you refuse me in any way?

LYCUS
Not a word, in fact.

AGORASTOCLES
Go in-doors, then, damsels. But *to HANNO* , my kinsman, betroth me your daughter, as you promised.

HANNO
I should not venture *to do* otherwise.

ANTHEMONIDES
Kindly farewell!

AGORASTOCLES
And kindly farewell to you!

ANTHEMONIDES
holding up what he has got in his hand . Procurer, I take this as a pledge with me for my mina.

LYCUS
By heavens, I am ruined!

AGORASTOCLES
Why yes, before very long, when you've come to justice.

LYCUS
Nay but, I own myself your slave. What need of the Prætor have we? But I beseech you that I may be allowed to pay the simple sum, three hundred Philippeans. I think it can be scraped together; to-morrow I'll have an auction.

AGORASTOCLES
On condition, then, that you shall be in wooden custody at my house.

LYCUS
So be it.

AGORASTOCLES
Follow me in-doors, my kinsman, that we may keep this festive day in joyousness, upon his misfortune and our good fortune. *To the AUDIENCE* . Heartily fare you well. To great length have we gone; at last all these misfortunes fall upon the Procurer. Now — that which is the last seasoning for our Play — if it has pleased you, our Comedy asks applause.

AGORASTOCLES, LYCUS, HANNO, ANTHEMONIDES, ADELPHASIUM, and ANTERASTYLIS.

AGORASTOCLES
What is it you are about, Captain? Why does it please you to speak rudely to my relative? Don't be surprised that the damsels do follow after him; he has just now discovered that both of them are his own daughters.

LYCUS
starting . Hah! what speech was it that reached my ears? Now I am undone! *To AGORASTOCLES.* From what house were these females lost?

AGORASTOCLES
They are Carthaginians.

LYCUS
Then I am ruined. I was always in dread of that, lest some one should recognize them, a *thing* which has now come to pass. Woe unto wretched me! My eighteen minæ are lost, I guess, which I paid for them.

AGORASTOCLES
And you yourself are lost, Lycus.

HANNO

Who is this?

AGORASTOCLES
Which you please, he's either the Procurer or Lycus. He has been keeping your daughters in servitude, and from myself he has stolen some gold.

HANNO
A pretty fellow for you to be acquainted with!

AGORASTOCLES
Procurer, I always deemed you to be avaricious, but they know you to be a thief as well, who know more of you.

LYCUS
I'll approach him. *He falls on the ground before AGORASTOCLES.* By your knees I do beseech you, and by him *pointing to HANNO* , whom I understand to be your relative; since you are deserving persons, as it befits deserving persons to do, do *then* come to the aid of your suppliant! Indeed, already did I know them to be free women, and was waiting for some one to claim their freedom, for really they are none of mine. Then besides, I'll restore your gold that I've got in my house, and I'll make oath that I have done nothing, Agorastocles, with ill intent.

AGORASTOCLES
As it's right for me to do, I shall still consult my own notions. Let go of my knees.

LYCUS
I'll let them go, if such is your determination. *He rises from the ground, and retires to a distance.*

AGORASTOCLES
Hark you! Procurer.

LYCUS
What do you want with a Procurer amid business?

AGORASTOCLES
You to restore me my money before I take you hence to *be laid in* fetters.

LYCUS
May the Gods grant better things!

AGORASTOCLES
Even so; you'll be dining away from home. I see Gold, silver, *and* your neck, Procurer, the three things are you now owing to me all at once.

HANNO
What it befits me to do in this matter, I'm considering with myself. If I should attempt to take vengeance on this *fellow,* I shall be engaging in litigation in a strange city. So far as I hear, his disposition and manners, of the nature that they are ——

ADELPHASIUM
My father, do have no dealings with this man, I conjure you.

ANTERASTYLIS
Do listen to my sister. Come, put an end to your strife with the rascal.

HANNO
Attend to this, will you, Procurer. Although I know that you deserve to come to ruin, I'll not try the matter with you.

AGORASTOCLES
Nor I, if you restore me my gold; Procurer, when let go from the fetters — you may get thrust into prison.

LYCUS
What, your old habit still?

ANTHEMONIDES
Carthaginian, I wish to excuse myself to you. If I have said anything

in my passion against the inclination of your feelings, I beg that you will pardon it; and as you have found these daughters *of yours,* so may the Deities bless me, it is a pleasure *to me.*

HANNO
I both forgive and believe you.

ANTERLASTYIS
Procurer, do you take care either to find me a mistress, or return me the mina of gold.

LYCUS
Should you like to have my music-girl?

ANTHEMONIDES
I don't care for a music-girl; you don't know which is the greater, their cheeks or their bosoms.

LYCUS
I'll find one to please you.

ANTHEMONIDES
Mind that,

LYCUS
to AGORASTOCLES . To-morrow I'll bring back your gold to your house.

AGORASTOCLES
Take care that you keep that in memory. Captain, follow me.

ANTHEMONIDES
Yes, I'll follow you. *LYCUS goes into his house.*

AGORASTOCLES
to HANNO . How say you, kinsman? When are you thinking of leaving here for Carthage? — for I'm determined to go together with you.

HANNO
As soon as ever I can, that instant I shall go.

AGORASTOCLES
It's necessary for you to stop here some days, until I've had an auction.

HANNO
I'll do just as you wish.

AGORASTOCLES
Come, please, let's be off; let's enjoy ourselves *To the AUDIENCE.* Grant us your applause.]

PSEUDOLUS

Translated by Henry Thomas Riley

Pseudolus opens with the shortest prologue of any of the known plays of Plautus, though it is not known whether Plautus wrote this prologue himself or if it was added later. The comedy was first performed in 191 BC during the Megalesian Festival, which was a celebration for the Greek Goddess Rhea. The temple for worship of Rhea in Rome was completed during the same year in time for the festival.

The prologue gives a warning to the audience that the play is long and now is the time to stretch their legs as they are about to be sitting for a long time. The play begins with the young master Calidorus and his crafty slave Pseudolus entering the stage, with the former visibly upset. After Pseudolus urges his master to tell him what is wrong, Calidorus shows Pseudolus a letter he has received. It reveals that Calidorus' lover Phoenicium, a prostitute, has been sold and the man that is supposed to come with the last of the money to pay for her and pick her up for her new master is expected shortly. Calidorus obviously wants to save her, but he has no money of his own and his father won't loan him any to help save her. He turns to Pseudolus, who is his father's chief slave, for help. Pseudolus does not have the money they require to buy her, but thinks he can improvise a plan to raise it and save Phoenicium…

Theatre mask representing the type of the First Slave of New Comedy. Pentelic marble, 2nd century BC. From the Dipylon Gate in Athens.

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THE SUBJECT.

CALIDORUS, a young Athenian, the son of Simo, is in love with Phœnicium, a young woman who belongs to Ballio, a procurer. A bargain has been made by the procurer, to sell her to a military officer for twenty minæ; fifteen of these have been paid down, and it has been agreed that when the remaining five and a certain token, with a letter, shall have been sent by the Captain, the damsel shall be sent to him in return. Pseudolus, the servant of Simo, promises his master's son, that, if possible, he will prevent this. They first address Ballio on the subject; but their attempts to influence him are all in vain. Pseudolus then devises a plan to get some money out of Simo, by whom, however, it is discovered; but, after having acknowledged his fault, he prevails upon the old gentleman to promise him twenty minæ if he shall contrive to get the girl out of the procurer's hands. Harpax, the messenger from the Captain, in the meantime makes his appearance. Being a stranger to the place, he unwittingly delivers the Captain's letter and the token to Pseudolus, who pretends that he is the head-servant of the procurer. Charinus, the friend of Calidorus, lends him five minæ; and, provided with this, Pseudolus equips Simmia, a servant of Charinus, so as to represent the messenger from the Captain. He finds the procurer, delivers the letter, pays the five mine, and carries off the damsel. Ballio then makes a bet of twenty minæ with Simo, that Pseudolus shall not outwit him that day. The real Harpax now applies to Ballio for the girl, and the trick being discovered, the procurer has to pay back the fifteen minæ to the Captain, and the twenty for the bet which he has made with Simo. Simo then pays the twenty minæ, which he has promised to Pseudolus if he should succeed in outwitting the procurer. Pseudolus is handsomely entertained by Calidorus, and engages to return to Simo one-half of the money, if he wil join the entertainment.

THE ACROSTIC ARGUMENT.

[Supposed to have been written by Priscian the Grammarian.]

An officer pays down fifteen mine, ready money (Prœsentes); as a token he also (Simul) gives an impression of his seal, that the procurer may deliver Phœnicium to him (Ei), who brings it with the rest of the money. Pseudolus intercepts his camp-servant coming (Venientem) with the token, saving (Dicens), that he is Syrus, the servant of Ballio, and thus he gives his aid (Opem) to his master; for the procurer (Leno) delivers up the damsel to Simmia, whom he has substituted. The real Harpax comes (Venit); the matter is all discovered, and the old man (Senex) pays the money which he has agreed to give. PROLOGUEThe Prologue: It is generally supposed that this Prologue, with the exception of the last two lines, was not written by Plautus it is, however, of grest antiquity, and is found in most of the MSS.

ATTEND to me this day; good things I bring upon the stage; for I think 'tis very just that to the good good things should be brought; as likewise bad things to the bad; that those who are bad may have what's bad, those who are good what's good; bad men are bad because they hate the good; because the good contemn the bad, needs must be that they are good; and therefore, you are good since you have ever abhorred the bad; and both by your laws, Quirites, and by your legions, have you routed them with good success. In like manner now do you give your goodly attention to this goodly company, which is a good one, and. to good people brings this day good things. Ears, eyes, and understanding, shall be amply filled. He that comes hungry or thirsty to the theatre, the same shall carefully give his attention both through laughter and a sharpened stomach; while those who are full will laugh, the hungry will be carping. Now, if you are wise, you hungry ones, give place, and go away; you who are full, stand — aye, sit you down, and give attention. I shall not now divulge the plot, nor yet the name of this play — Pseudolus will fully do that. I imagine then and I think that this is enough which I have said to you. Where mirth, jokes, laughter, wine, and jollity, are

the order of the day, the Graces, too, and propriety, joyousness, and delight; he who seeks for other things, that person appears to seek for evil. Away, then, with evil cares, as being men at your ease this day. 'Tis better for your loins to be stretched, and for you to arise. A long play of Plautus is coming upon the stage.

ACT I.

Enter CALIDORUS and PSEUDOLUS from SIMO'S house.

PSEUDOLUS
If, master, by your being silent, I could be in-formed what miseries are afflicting you so sadly, I would willingly have spared the trouble of two persons — of myself in asking you, and of yourself in answering me. Since, however, that cannot be, necessity compels me to enquire of you. Answer me: What's the reason that, out of spirits for these many days past, you've been carrying a letter about with you, washing it with your tears, and making no person the sharer of your purpose? Speak out, that what I am ignorant of, I may know together with yourself.

CALIDORUS
I am wretchedly miserable, Pseudolus.

PSEUDOLUS
May Jupiter forbid it!

CALIDORUS
This belongs not at all to the arbitration of Jupiter; under the sway of Venus am I harassed, not under that of Jove.

PSEUDOLUS
Is it allowable for me to know what it is? For hitherto you have had me as chief confidant in your plans.

CALIDORUS
The same is now my intention.

PSEUDOLUS
Let me know then what's the matter with you. I'll aid you either with resources, or with my efforts, or with good counsel.

CALIDORUS

Do you take this letter: do you thence inform yourself what misery and what care are wasting me away.

PSEUDOLUS
taking the letter . Compliance shall be given you. But, prithee, how's this?

CALIDORUS
What's the matter?

PSEUDOLUS
As I think, these letters are very loving; they are climbing on each other's backs.

CALIDORUS
Are you making sport of me with your foolery?

PSEUDOLUS
I' faith, I really do believe that unless the Sibyl can read them, nobody else can possibly interpret them.

CALIDORUS
Why speak you unkindly of those sweet letters — sweet tablets too, written upon by a hand as sweet.

PSEUDOLUS
Troth now, have hens, prithee, such hands? For certainly a hen has written these letters.

CALIDORUS
You are annoying me. Either read it or return the letter.

PSEUDOLUS
Very well then, I'll read it through. Give me your attention.

CALIDORUS
That's not here.

PSEUDOLUS
Do you summon it then.

CALIDORUS
Well, I'll be silent; do you summon it from that wax there; for there my attention is at present, not in my breast.

PSEUDOLUS
I see your mistress, Calidorus.

CALIDORUS
Where is she, prithee?

PSEUDOLUS
See, here she is at full length in the letter; she's lying upon the wax.

CALIDORUS
Now, may the Gods and Goddesses, inasmuch ——

PSEUDOLUS
Preserve me from harm, to wit.

CALIDORUS
For a short season have I been like a summer plant; suddenly have I sprung up, suddenly have I withered.

PSEUDOLUS
Be silent, while I read the letter through.

CALIDORUS
Why don't you read it then?

PSEUDOLUS
reading . " Phœnicium to her lover, Calidorus, by means of wax and string and letters, her exponents, sends health, and safety does she beg of you, weeping, and with palpitating feelings, heart, and breast."

CALIDORUS

I'm undone; I nowhere find, Pseudolus, this safety for me to send her back.

PSEUDOLUS
What safety?

CALIDORUS
A silver one.

PSEUDOLUS
And do you wish to send her back a silver safety for one on wood? Consider what you're about.

CALIDORUS
Read on now; I'll soon cause you to know from the letter how suddenly there's need for me for one of silver to be found.

PSEUDOLUS
reading on . "The procurer has sold me, my love, for twenty minæ, to a Macedonian officer from abroad. Before he departed hence, the Captain paid him fifteen minœ; only five minæ now are remaining unpaid. On that account the Captain left here a token — his own likeness impressed on wax by his ring — that he who should bring hither a token like to that, together with him the procurer might send me. The next day hence, on the Festival of Bacchus, is the one fixed for this matter."

CALIDORUS
Well, that's to-morrow; my ruin is near at hand, unless I have some help in you.

PSEUDOLUS
Let me read it through.

CALIDORUS
I permit you; for I seem to myself to be talking to her. Read on; the sweet and the hitter are you now mingling together for me.

PSEUDOLUS
reading on . “Now our loves, our tenderness, our intimacy, our mirth, our dalliance, our talking, our sweet kisses, the close embrace of us lovers equally fond, the soft, dear kisses impressed on our tender lips, the delicious pressing of the swelling bosom; of all these delights, I say, for me and for you as well, the severance, the destruction, and the downfal is at hand, unless there is some rescue for me in you or for you in me. I have taken care that you should know all these things that I have written; now shall I make trial how far you love me, and how far you pretend to do so.”

CALIDORUS
’Tis written, Pseudolus, in wretchedness.

PSEUDOLUS
Alas! very wretchedly.

CALIDORUS
Why don’t you weep, then?

PSEUDOLUS
I’ve eyes of pumice stone; I can’t prevail upon them to squeeze out one tear even.

CALIDORUS
Why so?

PSEUDOLUS
My family was always a dryeyed one.

CALIDORUS
Won’t you attempt to assist me at all?

PSEUDOLUS
What shall I do for you?

CALIDORUS
Alas!

PSEUDOLUS
Alas! do you say? Well, don't be sparing of them, i' faith; I'll give you plenty.

CALIDORUS
I'm distracted. I nowhere can find any money to borrow.

PSEUDOLUS
Alas!

CALIDORUS
Nor is there a single coin in the house.

PSEUDOLUS
Alas!

CALIDORUS
He's going to carry the damsel away to-morrow.

PSEUDOLUS
Alas!

CALIDORUS
Is it in that fashion that you help me?

PSEUDOLUS
I give you that which I have; for I've a perpetual supply of those treasures in my house.

CALIDORUS
It's all over with me this very day. But can you now lend me one drachma, which I'll pay you back to-morrow

PSEUDOLUS
I' faith, I hardly think I could, even though I should pawn myself for it. But what do you want to do with this drachma?

CALIDORUS

I want to purchase a halter for myself.

PSEUDOLUS
For what reason?

CALIDORUS
With which to hang myself. I'm determined, ere 'tis dark, to take a leap in the dark.

PSEUDOLUS
Who then shall pay me back my drachma * * * * ? Do you wish purposely to hang yourself for the very reason, that you may cheat mo out of my drachma if I lend it you?

CALIDORUS
At all events, I can in nowise survive if she's removed and carried off from me.

PSEUDOLUS
Why do you weep, you cuckoo? You shall survive.

CALIDORUS
Why should I not weep, who have neither a coin of silver in ready money, nor have the hope of a groat anywhere in the world?

PSEUDOLUS
As I understand the tenor of this letter, unless you weep for her with tears of silver, the affection which you wish yourself by those tears to prove is of no more value than if you were to pour water into a sieve. But have no fear, I'll not forsake you in your love. In troth, I do trust that this day, from some quarter or other, by my good aid I shall find you help in the money line. But whence that is to come, — that whence I know not how to pronounce; except only that so it shall be; my eyebrow twitches to that effect.

CALIDORUS
As to what you say, I trust that your deeds may be as good as your words.

PSEUDOLUS
I' faith, you surely know, if I set my plans a-going, after what fashion and how great is the bustle that I am in the habit of causing.

CALIDORUS
In you are now centred all the hopes of my existence.

PSEUDOLUS
Is it enough, if I this day make this damsel to be yours, or if I find you twenty minæ?

CALIDORUS
'Tis enough, if so it is to be.

PSEUDOLUS
Ask of me twenty minæ, that you may be assured that I'll procure for you that which I have promised. Ask them of me, by my troth, prithee do; I long to make the promise.

CALIDORUS
Will you this day find me twenty minæ of silver?

PSEUDOLUS
I will find them; be no more troublesome to me then. And this I tell you first, that you mayn't deny that it was told you; if I can no one else, I'll diddle your father out of the money.

CALIDORUS
So far as filial affection is concerned, even my mother as well. May the Gods always preserve you for me. But what if you are not able?

PSEUDOLUS
Upon that matter do you go to sleep with either eye.

CALIDORUS
With the eye or with the ear?

PSEUDOLUS

The latter is too common an expression. Now, that no one may affirm that it wasn't told him, I tell you all *to the AUDIENCE* , in the presence of the youths in this audience, and of all the people, to all my friends and all my acquaintances I give notice, that for this day they must guard against me, and not trust me.

CALIDORUS
Hist! be silent, prithee, by all the powers!

PSEUDOLUS
What's the matter?

CALIDORUS
There was a noise at the procurer's door.

PSEUDOLUS
I could only wish it were his legs in preference.

CALIDORUS
Yes, and he himself is coming out from in-doors, the perjured scoundrel. *They stand at a distance.*

Enter BALLIO, with several MALE and FEMALE SLAVES, from his house.

BALLIO
Get out, come, out with you, you rascals, kept at a loss and bought at a loss, in the minds of not one of whom aught ever comes to do aright, of whom I can't make a bit of use, unless I try it after this fashion. *He flogs the men all round.* At no time did I ever see human beings more like asses; so hardened are your ribs with stripes; when you flog them, you hurt yourself the most. Of such a disposition are these whipping-posts who follow this line of conduct; when the opportunity is given, pilfer, purloin, prig, plunder, drink, eat, and run away's the word. This is their method, so that you would choose rather to leave wolves among sheep, than these fellows on guard in your house. Yet, when you look at their appearance, they don't seem amiss; by their doings they deceive you. Now, therefore, unless you

all of you give your attention to this charge, unless you remove drowsiness and sloth from your breasts and eyes, I'll make your sides to be right thoroughly marked with thongs, so much so that not even Campanian coverlets are coloured as well, nor yet Alexandrian tapestry of purple embroidered with beasts all over. Even yesterday I already gave you all notice, and assigned to each his own respective employment; but so utterly worthless are you, so neglectful, of such stub-born dispositions, that you compel me to put you in mind of your duty with a basting. You are so minded I suppose, to get the better of this scourge and myself through the hardness of your hides. Never, i' faith, will your hides prove harder, than is this cow-hide of mine. *He dangles it before them.* Do look at that, please; they are minding other matters. Attend to this, and give heed to this. *He flogs one of them.* How now? Does it pain? Ah, that's the way it's laid on when any slave slights his master. Stand all of you before me, you race of mortals born to be thrashed; turn your ears this way; give attention all of you to what I say. You fellow who are holding the pitcher, do you fetch the water; do you take care that the cauldron's full this instant. You, with the axe, I appoint over the wood-cutting department.

SLAVES of Ballio.
But this one is blunted on the edge.

BALLIO
Let it be so, then. And so are you yourselves with stripes; yet am I for that reason any the less to enjoy your services? My orders I give to you, that the house be made clean. You have what you are to do; make haste, and go in-doors. *Exit FIRST SLAVE.* Be you the one that makes the couches smooth. Do you wash the plate clean, and arrange it in order as well, Take care that when I return from the Forum, I find things done; that all be swept, sprinkled, scoured, made smooth, cleaned, and arranged in order. For this day is my birthday; it befits you all to celebrate it. Take care to lay the gammon of bacon, the brawn, the collared neck, and the udder, in water; do you hear me? I wish to entertain tip-top men in first-rate style, that they may fancy that I have property. Go you in-doors, and get these things ready

quickly, that there may be no delay when the cook comes. I'm going to market, that I may make purchase of whatever fish is there. Boy, go you before me; I must have a care that no one cuts away my purse. Or wait there; there's something that I had almost forgotten to say at home. Do you hear me, you women? I have this charge for you — you, misses of distinction, who spend your time with illustrious men in refinements, luxury, and delights; now shall I know and make trial this day, which one has regard for her liberty, which for her appetite which thinks on her business, which on sleeping only: this day I'll make trial which I must think of as a freed-woman, and which as one to be sold. Take you care that many a present from your lovers comes in for me this day; for if your year's board isn't picked up for me, to-morrow I'll turn you adrift on the public. You know that this is my birthday; where are those youths, the apples of whose eyes you are, whose very existence, whose delight you are? Where are your kisses, where your bosoms sweet as honey? Make the bearers of presents to come here then, for my sake, before this house, in whole regiments. Why am I to find clothes for you, gold trinkets, and those things which you need? What have I, you jades, through your means, except vexation, you women, eager for nothing but the wine? You are a-soaking away yourselves and your paunches too, at the very time that I'm here a-dry. Now, therefore, this is the best thing to do; for me to call you each by her name, that no one of you may be declaring to me by-and-by that her business hasn't been told her. Give attention, all of you. In the first place, Hedylium, my business is with you — you, who are the favorite of the corn-merchants, men who have, all of them, immense mountains of wheat piled up at home; take you care that wheat is brought here for me, to suffice this year to come for myself and all my household, and that I may so abound in corn that the city may change my name for me, and instead of the procurer Ballio proclaim me King Iasions.

CALIDORUS

apart . Do you hear what the gallows-bird is saying? * * * Doesn't he seem a regular boaster to you?

PSEUDOLUS

apart . I' troth the fellow does, and a wicked one as well. But hush now, and give attention to this.

BALLIO
Æschrodora, you who have for your patrons the butchers, those rivals of the procurers, who, just like ourselves, by false oaths seek their gains, do you listen; unless the three larders shall be crammed for me this day with carcases of ample weight, to-morrow, just as they say that formerly the two sons of Jupiter fastened Dirce to the bull, aye, this day as well, will I tie you up to the larder; that, in fact, shall be your bull.

CALIDORUS
apart . I'm quite enraged by the talk of this fellow; that we should suffer the youth of Attica to encourage here this fellow! Where are they — where are they skulking, they of mature age, who have their amorous dealings with this procurer? Why don't they meet? Why don't they one and all deliver the public from this pestilence? But I am very simple, and very ignorant; they would venture, of course, to do that to those, to whom their passions compel them, to their misfortune, to be subservient, and, at the same time, prevent them from doing that against them which they would rather wish to do.

PSEUDOLUS
apart . Hush! CAL. *apart* . What's the matter?

PSEUDOLUS
apart . Pshaw! you are not very obliging. Why are you drowning his talk by your noise?

CALIDORUS
apart . I'll be silent. PSEUD. *apart* . But I'd much rather you would be silent, than that you should say you will be silent.

BALLIO
And you, Xystilis, take you care and give me your attention — you whose fanciers have large quantities of oil at home. If oil shall not be brought me here forthwith in leathern bags, I'll to-morrow cause

yourself to be carried off in a leathern bag to the prostitutes' shambles. There a bed shall be given you, I warrant, where you can have no rest, but where, even to downright fainting —— You understand what's the tendency of that which I'm saying? Will you tell me, you viper you, you who have so many of your fanciers so right well laden with their oil, is now the head of any one of your fellow-slaves a bit the better anointed by your means, or do I, myself, get my dainty morsels a bit the better seasoned with oil for it? But I understand — you don't care much about oil; with wine you anoint yourself. Only wait a bit; by my troth I'll punish you for all at one spell, unless indeed this day you contrive to manage all these things that I've been speaking of. But as for you, Phœnicium, I tell you this, you pet of the mighty men — you who have been for so long a time always paying down to me your money for your liberty — you who only know how to promise, but don't know how to pay what you have promised; unless this day all your keep is brought me here out of the stores of your customers, to-morrow, Phœnicium, with a true Phœnician hide, you'll pay a visit to the strumpets' shambles. *The SLAVES go into the house of BALLIO.*

CALIDORUS and PSEUDOLUS come forward. BALLIO stands near his door.

CALIDORUS
Pseudolus, don't you hear what he says?

PSEUDOLUS
I hear it, master, and I give good heed.

CALIDORUS
What do you advise me to send him, that he mayn't devote my mistress to dishonor?

PSEUDOLUS
Don't you trouble yourself about that; be of cheerful mind. I'll manage for myself and for you. For some time past I've been on terms of goodwill with him, and he with me; and our friendship is of

old standing. I'll send him this day, on his birthday, a mischief heavy and well-matured.

CALIDORUS
What's the plan?

PSEUDOLUS
Can't you attend to something else?

CALIDORUS
But ——

PSEUDOLUS
Tut.

CALIDORUS
I'm distracted.

PSEUDOLUS
Harden your heart.

CALIDORUS
I cannot.

PSEUDOLUS
Make yourself to can.

CALIDORUS
By what means, pray, can I prevail upon my feelings?

PSEUDOLUS
Carry you out that which is to your advantage, rather than give heed with your feelings to the thing that's disadvantageous.

CALIDORUS
That's nonsense; there is no pleasure, unless a lover acts like a fool.

PSEUDOLUS
Do you persist?

CALIDORUS
O my dear Pseudolus, let me be undone — do let me, please.

PSEUDOLUS
I'll let you; only let me go. *Going.*

CALIDORUS
Stay, stay. As you shall, then, wish me to be, so will I be.

PSEUDOLUS
Now, at last, you are in your senses.

BALLIO
coming forward from the door of his house to the other side of the stage . The day is passing; I'm causing delay to myself. Boy, do you go before me. *Moves as if going.*

CALIDORUS
Hallo there! he's going; why don't you call him back?

PSEUDOLUS
Why in such a hurry? Gently.

CALIDORUS
But before he's gone.

BALLIO
Why the plague do you go so slowly, boy?

PSEUDOLUS
You born on this day, hallo! you born on this day; I'm calling to you; hallo! you born on this day, come you back and look at us. Although you are busy, we want you; stop — it's because some persons want to speak to you.

BALLIO
What's this? Who is it, when I'm busy, causes me unseasonable delay?

PSEUDOLUS
He that has been your supporter.

BALLIO
He's dead that has been; only he that is, is now alive.

PSEUDOLUS
You are too saucy.

BALLIO
You are too troublesome. *Turns away to go on.*

CALIDORUS
Seize the fellow: follow him up.

BALLIO
Go on, boy.

PSEUDOLUS
Let's go and meet him this way. *They run and stand before him.*

BALLIO
May Jupiter confound you, whoever you are.

PSEUDOLUS
That for yourself I wish.

BALLIO
And for both of you do I. Turn you this way, boy. *Takes another direction.*

PSEUDOLUS
May we not speak with you?

BALLIO
Why, it doesn't please me.

PSEUDOLUS
But if it's something to your advantage?

BALLIO
Am I allowed to go away, pray, or am I not?

PSEUDOLUS
Pshaw! Stop. *Catches hold of him.* BAL. Let me go.

CALIDORUS
Ballio, listen.

BALLIO
I'm deaf.

CALIDORUS
Really, you are uncivil.

BALLIO
You are a chatterer of nonsense.

CALIDORUS
I gave you money so long as I had it.

BALLIO
I'm not asking what you gave.

CALIDORUS
I'll give you some when I have it.

BALLIO
When you have it, bring it to me.

CALIDORUS
Alas, alas! In what a foolish fashion have I lavished what I brought to you, and what I gave you.

BALLIO
Your wealth defunct, you now are talking about it; you are a simpleton, a cause that has been tried you are trying over again.

PSEUDOLUS

At least consider him, who he is.

BALLIO
I've known for a long time now who he was; who he now is, let him know himself. Do you walk on *to the BOY* .

PSEUDOLUS
And can't you, Ballio, only once give a look this way for your own profit?

BALLIO
At that price I'll give a look; for if I were sacrificing to supreme Jupiter, and were presenting the entrails in my hands to lay them on the altar, if in the meanwhile anything in the way of profit were offered, I should in preference forsake the sacrifice. There's no being able to resist that sort of piety, however other things go.

PSEUDOLUS
aside . The very Gods, whom it is especially our duty to reverence — them he esteems of little value.

BALLIO
I'll speak to him. Hail to you, right heartily, the very vilest slave in Athens.

PSEUDOLUS
May the Gods and Goddesses favour you, Ballio, both at his wish and at my own; or, if you are deserving of other terms, let them neither favour nor bless you.

BALLIO
What's the matter, Calidorus?

CALIDORUS
Love and pinching want are the matter.

BALLIO
I would pity you, if, upon pity I could support my establishment.

PSEUDOLUS
Aye, aye, we know you quite well, what sort of character you are; don't be proclaiming it. But do you know what we want?

BALLIO
I' faith, I know it pretty nearly; that there may be something unfortunate for me.

PSEUDOLUS
Both to that and this for which we called you back, prithee do give your attention.

BALLIO
I am attending; but compress into a few words what you want, as I'm busy now.

PSEUDOLUS
He *pointing to CALIDORUS* is quite ashamed about what he promised you, and the day for which he promised it, that he hasn't even yet paid you those twenty minæ for his mistress.

BALLIO
That which we are ashamed at is much more easily endured than that which we are vexed at. At not having paid the money, he is ashamed; I, because I have not received it, am vexed.

PSEUDOLUS
Still, he'll pay it, he'll procure it; do you only wait some days to come. But he has been afraid of this, that you'll sell her on account of his embarrassment.

BALLIO
He had an opportunity, had he wished, of paying the money long ago.

CALIDORUS
What if I had it not?

BALLIO
If you had been in love, you would have found it on loan. You would have gone to the usurer; you would have paid the interest; or else you would have pilfered it from your father.

PSEUDOLUS
Ought he to have pilfered it from his father, you most shameless villain? There is no fear that you'll point out to him anything that's right.

BALLIO
That's not like a procurer.

CALIDORUS
And could I possibly pilfer anything from my father, an old man so much on his guard? And besides, if I could do so, filial affection forbids.

BALLIO
I understand you; do you then at night embrace filial affection in place of Phœnicium. But since I see you prefer your filial affection to your love — are all men your fathers? Is there no one for you to ask to lend you some money?

CALIDORUS
Why, the very name of lending's dead and gone by this.

PSEUDOLUS
Look you now; since, i' faith, those fellows arose from the banker's table, with a filled skin, who, when they called in their own, paid what they had borrowed to no born creature, since then, I say, all people have been more cautious not to trust another.

CALIDORUS
Most wretched am I; nowhere am I able to find a coin of silver; so distractedly am I perishing both through love and want of money.

BALLIO

Buy oil on credit, and sell it for ready money; then, i' faith, even two hundred minæ ready money might be raised.

CALIDORUS
There I'm done; the twenty-five year old law founders me. All are afraid to trust me.

BALLIO
The same law have I. I'm afraid to trust you.

PSEUDOLUS
To trust him, indeed! How now, do you repent of the great profit he has been to you?

BALLIO
No lover is a profitable one, except him who keeps continually making presents. Either let him be always giving, or when he has nothing, let him at the same time cease to be in love.

CALIDORUS
And don't you pity me at all?

BALLIO
You come empty-handed; words don't chink. But I wish you life and health.

PSEUDOLUS
Heyday! Is he dead already?

BALLIO
However he is, to me indeed, at all events, with these speeches, he is dead. Then, does a lover really live, when he comes begging to a procurer? Do you always come to me with a complaint that brings its money. As for that, which you are now lamenting about, that you have got no money, complain of it to your stepmother.

PSEUDOLUS
Why, have you ever been married to his father, pray?

BALLIO
May the Gods grant better things.

PSEUDOLUS
Do what we ask you, Ballio, on my credit, if you are afraid to trust him. Within the next three days, from some quarter, in some way, either by land or sea, I'll rout up this money for you.

BALLIO
I, trust you?

PSEUDOLUS
Why not?

BALLIO
Because, i' faith, on the same principle that I trust you, on that principle I should tie a run-away dog to a lamb's fry.

CALIDORUS
Is the obligation thus ungratefully returned by you to me, who have deserved so well of you?

BALLIO
What do you want now?

CALIDORUS
That you will only wait these six days of the Feast, and will not sell her or prove the death of the person who loves her.

BALLIO
Be of good courage; I'll wait six months even.

CALIDORUS
Capital — most delightful man!

BALLIO
Aye; and do you wish, too, that from joyful I should make you even more joyous?

CALIDORUS
How so?

BALLIO
Why, because I've got no Phœnicium to sell.

CALIDORUS
Not got her?

BALLIO
I' faith, not I, indeed.

CALIDORUS
Pseudolus, go fetch the sacrifice, the victims, the sacrificers, that I may make offering to this supreme Jove. For this Jupiter is now much more mighty to me than is Jupiter himself.

BALLIO
I want no victims; with the entrails of minæ I wish to be appeased.

CALIDORUS
to PSEUDOLUS . Make haste. Why do you hesitate? Go fetch the lambs; do you hear what Jupiter says?

PSEUDOLUS
I'll be here this moment; but first I must run as far as beyond the gate.

CALIDORUS
Why thither?

PSEUDOLUS
I'll fetch two sacrificers thence, with their bells; at the same time I'll fetch thence two bundles of elm twigs, that this day a sufficiency may be provided for the sacrifice to this Jove.

BALLIO
Away to utter perdition.

PSEUDOLUS
Thither shall the pimping Jupiter go.

BALLIO
It isn't for your interest that I should die.

PSEUDOLUS
How so?

BALLIO
This way; because, if I'm dead, there will be no one worse than yourself in Athens. For your interest *to CALIDORUS* it is that I should die.

CALIDORUS
How so?

BALLIO
I'll tell you; because, i' faith, so long as I shall be alive, you'll never be a man well to do.

CALIDORUS
Troth now, prithee, in serious truth, tell me this that I ask you — have you not got my mistress, Phœnicium, on sale?

BALLIO
By my faith, I really have not; for I've now sold her already.

CALIDORUS
In what way?

BALLIO
Without her trappings, with all her inwards.

CALIDORUS
What? Have you sold my mistress?

BALLIO

Decidedly; for twenty minæ.

CALIDORUS
For twenty minæ?

BALLIO
Or, in other words, for four times five minæ, whichever you please, to a Macedonian Captain; and I've already got fifteen of the minæ at home.

CALIDORUS
What is it that I hear of you?

BALLIO
That your mistress has been turned into money.

CALIDORUS
Why did you dare to do so?

BALLIO
'Twas my pleasure; she was my own.

CALIDORUS
Hallo! Pseudolus. Run, fetch me a sword.

PSEUDOLUS
What need is there of a sword?

CALIDORUS
With which to kill this fellow this instant, and then myself.

PSEUDOLUS
But why not kill yourself only rather? For famine will soon be killing him.

CALIDORUS
What do you say, most perjured of men as many as are living upon the earth? Did you not take an oath that you would sell her to no

person besides myself?

BALLIO
I confess it.

CALIDORUS
In solemn form, to wit.

BALLIO
Aye, and well considered too.

CALIDORUS
You have proved perjured, you villain.

BALLIO
I sacked the money at home, however. Villain as I am, I am now able to draw upon a stock of silver in my house; whereas you who are so dutiful, and born of that grand family, haven't a single coin.

CALIDORUS
Pseudolus, stand by him on the other side and load this fellow with imprecations.

PSEUDOLUS
Very well. Never would I run to the Prætor with equal speed that I might be made free. *Stands on the other side of BALLIO.*

CALIDORUS
Heap on him a multitude of curses.

PSEUDOLUS
Now will I publish you with my rebukes. Thou lackshame!

BALLIO
'Tis the fact.

PSEUDOLUS
Villain!

BALLIO
You say the truth.

PSEUDOLUS
Whipping-post!

BALLIO
Why not?

PSEUDOLUS
Robber of tombs!

BALLIO
No doubt.

PSEUDOLUS
Gallows-bird!

BALLIO
Very well done.

PSEUDOLUS
Cheater of your friends!

BALLIO
That’s in my way.

PSEUDOLUS
Parricide!

BALLIO
Proceed, you.

CALIDORUS
Committer of sacrilege!

BALLIO
I own it.

CALIDORUS
Perjurer!

BALLIO
You're telling nothing new.

CALIDORUS
Lawbreaker!

BALLIO
Very much so.

PSEUDOLUS
Pest of youth!

BALLIO
Most severely said.

CALIDORUS
Thief!

BALLIO
Oh! wonderful!

PSEUDOLUS
Vagabond!

BALLIO
Pooh! pooh!

CALIDORUS
Defrauder of the public!

BALLIO
Most decidedly so.

PSEUDOLUS
Cheating scoundrel!

CALIDORUS
Filthy pander!

PSEUDOLUS
Lump of filth!

BALLIO
A capital chorus.

CALIDORUS
You beat your father and mother.

BALLIO
Aye, and killed them, too, rather than find them food; did I do wrong at all?

PSEUDOLUS
We are pouring our words into a pierced cask: we are losing our pains.

BALLIO
Would you like to call me anything else besides?

CALIDORUS
Is there anything that shames you?

BALLIO
Yes; that you have been found to be a lover as empty as a rotten nut. But although you have used towards me expressions many and harsh, unless the Captain shall bring me this day the five minæ that he owes me, as this was the last day appointed for the payment of that money, if he doesn't bring it, I think that I am able to do my duty.

CALIDORUS
What is that duty?

BALLIO
If you bring the money, I'll break faith with him; that's my duty. If it

were more worth my while, I would talk further with you. But, without a coin of money, 'tis in vain that you request me to have pity upon you. Such is my determination; but do you, from this, consider what you have henceforth to do? *Moves.*

CALIDORUS
Are you going then?

BALLIO
At present I am full of business. *(Exit.)*

PSEUDOLUS
Before long you'll be more so. That man is my own, unless all Gods and men forsake me. I'll bone him just in the same fashion that a cook does a lamprey. Now, Calidorus, I wish you to give me your attention.

CALIDORUS
What do you bid me do?

PSEUDOLUS
I wish to lay siege to this town, that this day it may be taken. For that purpose, I have need of an artful, clever, knowing, and crafty fellow, who may despatch out of hand what he is ordered, not one to go to sleep upon his watch.

CALIDORUS
Tell me, then, what you are going to do?

PSEUDOLUS
In good time I'll let you know. I don't care for it to be repeated twice; stories are made too long that way.

CALIDORUS
You plead what's very fair and very just.

PSEUDOLUS
Make haste; bring the fellow hither quickly.

CALIDORUS
Out of many, there are but few friends that are to be depended upon by a person.

PSEUDOLUS
I know that; therefore, get for yourself now a choice of both, and seek out of these many one that can be depended upon.

CALIDORUS
I'll have him here this instant.

PSEUDOLUS
Can't you be off then? You create delay for yourself by your talking. *(Exit CALIDORUS.)*

PSEUDOLUS, alone.

PSEUDOLUS
Since he has gone hence, you are now standing alone, Pseudolus. What are you to do now, after you have so largely promised costly delights to your master's son by your speeches? You, for whom not even one drop of sure counsel is ready, nor yet of silver * * * * nor have you where first you must begin your undertaking, nor yet fixed limits for finishing off your web. But just as the poet, when he has taken up his tablets, seeks what nowhere in the world exists, and still finds it, and makes that like truth which really is a fiction; now I'll become a poet; twenty minæ, which no-where in the world are now existing, still will I find. And some time since had I said that I would find them for him, and I had attempted to throw a net over our old gentleman; however, by what means I know not, he perceived it beforehand. But my voice and my talking must be stopped; for, see! I perceive my master, Simo, coming this way, together with his neighbour, Callipho. Out of this old sepulchre will I dig twenty minæ this day, to give them to my master's son. Now I'll step aside here, that I may pick up their conversation. *He stands apart.*

Enter SIMO and CALLIPHO.

SIMO
If now a Dictator were to be appointed at Athens of Attica out of the spendthrifts or out of the gallants, I do think that no one would surpass my son. For now the only talk of all throughout the city is to the effect that he is trying to set his mistress free, and is seeking after money for that purpose. Some people bring me word of this; and, in fact, I had long ago perceived it, and had suspected it, but I dissembled on it.

PSEUDOLUS
apart . Already is his son suspected by him; this affair is nipt in the bud, this business is at a stand-still. The way is now entirely blocked up against me, by which I had intended to go a-foraging for the money. He has perceived it beforehand. There's no booty for the marauders.

CALLIPHO
Those men who carry about and who listen to accusations, should all be hanged, if so it could be at my decision, the carriers by their tongues, the listeners by their ears. For these things that are told you, that your son in his amour is desirous to chouse you out of money, the chance is that these things so told you are all lies. But sappose they are true, as habits are, now-a-days especially, what has he done so surprising? What new thing, if a young man does love, and if he does liberate his mistress?

PSEUDOLUS
apart . A delightful old gentleman.

SIMO
I don't wish him to follow the old-fashioned habits.

CALLIPHO
But still, in vain do you object; or you yourself shouldn't have done the like in your youthful days. It befits the father to be immaculate, who wishes his son to be more immaculate than he has been himself. But the mischief and the profligacy you were guilty of might have

been distributed throughout the whole population, a share for each man. Are you surprised at it, if the son does take after the father?

PSEUDOLUS
apart . O Zeus, Zeus! how few in number are you considerate men. See, that's being a father to a son, just as is proper.

SIMO
Who is it that's speaking here? *Looking round.* Why, surely 'tis my servant Pseudolus. 'Tis he corrupts my son, the wicked scoundrel; he is his leader, he his tutor. I long for him to be put to extreme torture.

CALLIPHO
This is folly now, thus to keep your anger in readiness. How much better were it to accost him with kind words and to make all enquiries, whether these things are true or not that they tell you of?

SIMO
I'll take your advice.

PSEUDOLUS
apart . They are making towards you, Pseudolus; prepare your speech to meet the old fellow. Good courage in a bad case is half the evil got over. *Aloud, as he advances to meet them.* First, I salute my master, as is proper; and alter that, if anything is left, that I bestow upon his neighbour.

SIMO
Good day to you. What are you about?

PSEUDOLUS
About standing here in this fashion *assuming an attitude* .

SIMO
See the attitude of the fellow, Callipho; how like that of a man of rank.

CALLIPHO

I consider that he is standing properly and with boldness.

PSEUDOLUS
It befits a servant innocent and guileless, as he is, to be bold, most especially before his master.

CALLIPHO
There are some things about which we wish to inquire of you, which we ourselves know and have heard of as though through a cloud of mist.

SIMO
He'll manage you now with his speeches, so that you shall think it isn't Pseudolus but Socrates that's talking to you. What do you say?

PSEUDOLUS
For a long time you have held me in contempt, I know. I see that you have but little confidence in me. You wish me to be a villain; still, I will be of strict honesty.

SIMO
Take care, please, and make the recesses of your ears free, Pseudolus, that my words may be enabled to enter where I desire.

PSEUDOLUS
Come, say anything you please, although I am angry at you.

SIMO
What, you, a slave, angry at me your master?

PSEUDOLUS
And does that seem wonderful to you?

SIMO
Why, by my troth, according to what you say, I must be on my guard against you in your anger, and you are thinking of beating me in no other way than I am wont to beat yourself. What do you think? *To CALLIPHO.*

CALLIPHO
I' faith, I think that he's angry with good reason, since you have so little confidence in him.

SIMO
I'll leave him alone then. Let him be angry: I'll take care that he shall do me no harm. But what do you say? What as to that which I was asking you?

PSEUDOLUS
If you want anything, ask me. What I know, do you consider given you as a response at Delphi.

SIMO
Give your attention then, and take care and please mind your promise. What do you say? Do you know that my son is in love with a certain music-girl?

PSEUDOLUS
Yea, verily.

SIMO
Whom he is trying to make free?

PSEUDOLUS
Yea, verily and indeed.

SIMO
And you are scheming by cajolery and by cunning tricks to get twenty minæ in ready money out of me?

PSEUDOLUS
I, get them out of you?

SIMO
Just so; to give them to my son, with which to liberate his mistress. Do you confess it? Speak out.

PSEUDOLUS
Yea, verily; yea, verily.

SIMO
He confesses it. Didn't I tell you so just now, Callipho?

CALLIPHO
So I remember.

SIMO
Why, directly you knew of these things, were they kept concealed from me? Why wasn't I made acquainted with them?

PSEUDOLUS
I'll tell you: because I was unwilling that a bad custom should originate in me, for a servant to accuse his master before his master.

SIMO
Wouldn't you order this fellow to be dragged head first to the treadmills?

CALLIPHO
Has he done anything amiss, Simo?

SIMO
Yes, very much so.

PSEUDOLUS
to CALLIPHO . Be quiet, I quite well understand my own affairs, Callipho. Is this a fault? Now then, give your attention to the reason why I you kept ignorant of this amour. I knew that the treadmill was close at hand, if I told you.

SIMO
And didn't you know, as well, that the treadmill would be close at hand when you kept silent on it?

PSEUDOLUS

I did know it.

SIMO
Why wasn't it told me?

PSEUDOLUS
The one evil was close at hand, the other at a greater distance; the one was at the moment, the other was a few days off.

SIMO
What will you be doing now? For assuredly the money cannot be got in this quarter out of me, who have especially detected it. I shall forthwith give notice to all that no one is to trust him the money.

PSEUDOLUS
I' faith, I'll never go begging to any person, so long, at all events, as you shall be alive; troth, you shall find me the money; and as for me, I shall take it from you.

SIMO
You, take it from me?

PSEUDOLUS
Undoubtedly.

SIMO
Troth, now, knock out my eye, if I do find it.

PSEUDOLUS
You shall provide it. I warn you then to be on your guard against me.

SIMO
By my troth, I know this for sure; if you do take it away, you will have done a wonderful and a great exploit.

PSEUDOLUS
I will do it, however.

SIMO
But if you don't carry it off?

PSEUDOLUS
Then flog me with rods. But what if I do carry it off?

SIMO
I give you Jupiter as your witness, that you shall pass your life free from punishment.

PSEUDOLUS
Take care and remember that.

SIMO
Could I possibly be unable to be on my guard, who am forewarned?

PSEUDOLUS
I forewarn you to be on your guard. I say you must be on your guard, I tell you. Keep watch. Look, now, with those same hands will you this day give me the money

SIMO
By my troth, 'tis a clever mortal if he keeps his word.

PSEUDOLUS
Carry me away to be your slave if I don't do it.

SIMO
You speak kindly and obligingly; for at present you are not mine, I suppose.

PSEUDOLUS
Would you like me to tell you, too, what you will still more wonder at?

SIMO
Come, then; i' faith, I long to hear it; I listen to you with pleasure.

PSEUDOLUS
Before I fight that battle, I shall first fight another battle, famous and memorable.

SIMO
What battle?

PSEUDOLUS
Why, with the procurer your neighbour; by means of stratagem and artful tricks, I'l cleverly bamboozle the procurer out of this music-girl, with whom your son is so desperately in love; and I surely will have both of these things effected this very day, before the evening.

SIMO
Well, if you accomplish these tasks as you say, you will surpass in might King Agathocles. But if you don't do it, is there any reason why I shouldn't forthwith put you in the treadmill?

PSEUDOLUS
Not for one day, but, i' faith, for all, whatever the time. But if I effect it, will you not at once give me the money of your own free will for me to pay to the procurer?

CALLIPHO
Pseudolus is making a fair claim; say "I'll give it."

SIMO
But still, do you know what comes into my mind? Suppose they have made an arrangement, Callipho, among themselves, or are acting in concert, and on a preconcerted plan, to bamboozle me out of the money?

PSEUDOLUS
Who would be more audacious than myself, if I dared to do such an action? Well, Simo, if we are thus in collusion, or have ever arranged any plan, do you mark me quite all over with elm-tree stripes, just as when letters are written in a book with a reed.

SIMO
Now then, proclaim the games as soon as you please.

PSEUDOLUS
Give me your attention, Callipho, I beg you, for this day, so that you may not any way employ yourself upon other business.

CALLIPHO
Why, now, I had made up my mind yesterday to go into the country.

PSEUDOLUS
Still, do you now change the plan which you had resolved upon.

CALLIPHO
I am now resolved not to go away on account of this; I have an inclination to be a spectator of your games, Pseudolus; and if I shall find that he doesn't give you the money which he has promised, rather than it shouldn't be done, I'll give it.

SIMO
I shall not change my purpose.

PSEUDOLUS
Because, by my faith, if you don't give it, you shall be dunned for it with clamour great and plenteous. Come, now, move yourselves off hence into the house this instant, and in turn give room for my tricks.

SIMO
Be it so.

CALLIPHO
You may have your way,

PSEUDOLUS
But I want you to keep close at home.

SIMO
Well, that assistance I promise you.

CALLIPHO
But I shall be off to the Forum. I'll be back here presently. *Exit CALLIPHO. SIMO goes into his house.*

PSEUDOLUS
Be back directly. *To the AUDIENCE.* I have a suspicion, now, that you are suspecting that I have been promising these so great exploits to these persons for the purpose of amusing you, while I am acting this play, and that I shall not do that which I said I will do. I will not change my design; so far as that then I know for certain; by what means I'm to carry it out not at all do I know as yet; only this, that so it shall be. For he that appears upon the stage in a new character, him it befits to bring something that is new. If he cannot do that, let him give place to him who can. I am inclined to go hence into the house for some little time, while I summon together all my stratagems in my mind. Meanwhile this piper shall entertain you. *Goes into the house of SIMO, and the PIPER strikes up a tune.*

ACT II.

Enter PSEUDOLUS, from the house of SIMO.

PSEUDOLUS
O Jupiter, whatever I undertake, how cleverly and how fortunately does it befal me. Not any plan is there stored up in my breast that I can hesitate upon or be afraid of. But it is folly to entrust a bold exploit to a timorous heart; for all things are just as you make them, so as you make them of importance. Now in my breast have I already so prepared my forces — double, aye, threefold stratagems, that when I engage with the enemy, relying upon the merits, I say, of my forefathers, and on my own industry and tricking propensity for mischief, I may easily conquer, and easily spoil my antagonists by my contrivances. Now will I adroitly batter down this Ballio, the common foe of me and all of you; only lend me your attention. Now will I forthwith draw out my legions against this old town. If I take it, I shall make it a pleasant matter for the citizens: I'll load and fill myself, and my allies as well, with booty from it. I shall strike terror and fright into my enemies, so that they may know of what race I was born. Great exploits it befits me to perform, which long after may bespeak fame for me. But whom do I see here? Who's this low fellow that's presented before my eyes? I should like to know why he's come here with his sword: I' troth, now then I'll lie here in ambush for him, to see the business that he's about. *Retires to a distance.*

Enter HARPAX, with a bay in his hand.

HARPAX
This is the place, and this the spot, which was pointed out to me by my master, according as 1 form a judgment from my eyesight. For my master, the Captain, told me to this effect, that the house was the seventh from the gate, in which lives the person to whom he requested me to carry the token and this silver * * * * * I could vastly wish that some one would inform me where this Ballio, the

procurer, lives. *Looks from side to side.*

PSEUDOLUS
apart . Hist! Silence! This man is mine, unless all Gods and men forsake me. Now have I need of a new plan; this new scheme is suddenly presented to me. This I prefer to my former one; that I shall dismiss, which, before, I had commenced to carry into effect. By my troth, I'll then work this military messenger that's just arrived.

HARPAX
I'll knock at the door, and call some one out of doors from within. *Goes towards the door of BALLIO'S house.*

PSEUDOLUS
coming up to him . Whoever you are, I wish you to spare your knocking; for I've just come out of doors, I, the spokesman and the defender of the door.

HARPAX
Are you Ballio?

PSEUDOLUS
Why, no; but I'm the deputy-Ballio.

HARPAX
What means that expression?

PSEUDOLUS
I'm his butler-steward; the caterer for his larder.

HARPAX
As though you were to say, you are his chamberlain.

PSEUDOLUS
No; I'm above his chamberlain.

HARPAX
What are you, slave or free man?

PSEUDOLUS
Why, at present, I'm still a slave.

HARPAX
So you seem to be; and you don't look to be one worthy to be free.

PSEUDOLUS
Ain't you in the habit of looking at yourself when you abuse another person?

HARPAX
aside . This must be a roguish fellow.

PSEUDOLUS
aside . The Gods protect and favour me! for this is my anvil: this day will I hammer out thence full many a device.

HARPAX
Why is he talking to himself alone?

PSEUDOLUS
How say you, young man —— ?

HARPAX
What is it?

PSEUDOLUS
Are you, or are you not, from that Captain of Macedonia? The servant of him, 1 mean, who bought a damsel of us here, who gave fifteen silver minæ to the procurer, my master, and is still owing five?

HARPAX
I am. But where in the world have you ever known me, or have ever seen or spoken to me? For in fact, before this day, I never was at Athens, nor did I ever before this day behold you with my eyes * * * * * * * * *

PSEUDOLUS
Because you seem likely to be from him; for at the time when he went away, this was the day appointed for the money, on which he was to pay it to us, and he has not brought it as yet.

HARPAX
Yes, here it is. *Holding up the bag.*

PSEUDOLUS
What? — have you brought it?

HARPAX
I, myself.

PSEUDOLUS
Do you at all hesitate to give it me?

HARPAX
I, give it you?

PSEUDOLUS
Aye, faith, to me, who manage the business and the accounts of my master Ballio, receive his money, and pay it to him to whom he owes it.

HARPAX
By my troth, if you were even the keeper of the treasures of supreme Jove, I would never entrust a groat of silver to you.

PSEUDOLUS
pointing . While you've been making yourself so big, the money has become loose.

HARPAX
I'll keep it the rather tied up — this way. *Ties the mouth of the bag.*

PSEUDOLUS
Woe to you! You indeed have been found to doubt my honor. As

though innumerable times as much are not in the habit of being entrusted to me alone.

HARPAX
It's possible that others may think so, and that I mayn't trust you.

PSEUDOLUS
As though you meant to say that I wished to chouse you out of the money.

HARPAX
Why, yes; as though you meant to say so; and as though I, on the other hand, meant to suspect it. But what's your name?

PSEUDOLUS
aside . This procurer has a servant of the name of Syrus; I'll say that I am he. I am Syrus.

HARPAX
Syrus?

PSEUDOLUS
That's my name.

HARPAX
We are making many words. If your master's at home, why don't you call him out, that I may transact that for which I was sent here, whatever be your name?

PSEUDOLUS
If he were within I would call him out. But if you choose to give it me, it will be more truly paid than if you were to give it to himself.

HARPAX
But now do you know how it is? My master has sent me to pay this, not to lose it. But I know, to a certainty, that you are in a fever now, because you cannot lay your claws upon it. I shall entrust the money to no person except to Ballio himself.

PSEUDOLUS
But at present he's full of business: a cause of his is being tried before the judge.

HARPAX
May the Gods prosper it! And I, when I shall think that he's at home, will come again. Do you take this letter from me, and give it him: for in it is the token agreed upon between your master and mine about the damsel.

PSEUDOLUS
For my part, I understand it; the person who should bring the money and the impress of his likeness hither to us, with him he said he wished the damsel to be sent; for he left a specimen of it here as well.

HARPAX
You understand the whole affair?

PSEUDOLUS
Why should I not understand it?

HARPAX
Give him this token then. *Gives the letter and token.*

PSEUDOLUS
Very well. But what's your name?

HARPAX
Harpax.

PSEUDOLUS
Get along with you, Harpax, I like you not. By my troth, you really shan't enter this house, lest you should be doing something in the harpy line.

HARPAX
I am wont to carry off my enemies alive from the battle-field; from that circumrstance is my name.

PSEUDOLUS
I' faith, I think that you are much more likely to carry off the brass pots from a house.

HARPAX
Such is not the fact. But, Syrus, do you know what I request of you?

PSEUDOLUS
I shall know, if you tell me.

HARPAX
I shall put up outside of the gate here, at the third shop, at the house of that tun-bellied, limping, fat old woman, Chrysis.

PSEUDOLUS
What do you wish then?

HARPAX
That you'll fetch me thence when your master comes.

PSEUDOLUS
At your pleasure; by all means.

HARPAX
For, as I've come wearied off my journey, I wish to refresh myself.

PSEUDOLUS
You are very wise, and your plan is agreable to me. But take care, please, that you are not out of the way when I send for you.

HARPAX
Why, when I've dined, I shall indulge myself with a nap.

PSEUDOLUS
I quite agree with you.

HARPAX
Do you wish aught else?

PSEUDOLUS
That you'll be off to take your nap.

HARPAX
I'm off.

PSEUDOLUS
And, do you hear, Harpax? Order yourself to be covered up, please; you'll receive the benefit if you take a good sweat. *(Exit HARPAX.)*

PSEUDOLUS, alone.

PSEUDOLUS
Immortal Gods! this man has preserved me by his coming. By his supply for my journey he has brought me from my wanderings quite into the right way. For the Goddess Opportunity herself could not come to me more opportunely, than has this letter in this opportune manner been brought to me. For this has been brought as a horn of plenty, in which there is whatever I wish for: here are my wiles, here all my tricks, here my stratagems, here my money, here his mistress for my master's son so much in love. And now how vaunting shall I show myself; how, with a breast so fertile in expedients, I was to do each thing, how, to steal away the damsel from the procurer, I had all my plans arranged in order in my mind as I desired, fixed, planned out. But, no doubt, thus will it come to pass: this Goddess Fortune, unaided, prevails over the designs of a hundred armed men. And this is the fact, just as each person uses his fortune, so does he surpass others, and forthwith we all pronounce him wise. When we learn that the counsels of any person have turned out well, we declare that he is a prudent man; but that he is a fool who is unsuccessful. In our folly we know not how much we are mistaken, when we eagerly wish anything to be given to us; as though we ourselves could possibly know what is for our advantage. We lose what is certain, while we are seeking what is uncertain. And this comes to pass, amid labours and amid sorrow, that death meanwhile comes creeping on. But there's enough now of philosophizing; I have been talking too long, and at too great length. Immortal Gods! my lie was not dear at its

weight in double-distilled gold, which I just now trumped up here on the spur of the moment, when I said that I belonged to the procurer. Now, through this letter shall I deceive three persons — my master, and the procurer, and him who gave me this letter. Excellent! another thing as well has happened, that I wished for: see, Calidorus is coming; he is bringing some one with him, I know not whom. *Stands apart.*

Enter CALIDORUS and CHARINUS.

CALIDORUS
The sweets and the bitters, all have I disclosed to you. You know my love, you know my difficulty, you know my poverty.

CHARINUS
I well remember all; do you only let me know what you want me to do.

CALIDORUS
Pseudolus has directed me thus, that I should bring to him some bold and zealous person.

CHARINUS
You observe your directions well; for you bring him one both friendly and zealous. But this Pseudolus is a stranger to me.

CALIDORUS
He is a very clever fellow — he is my contriver. He said that he would effect those things for me that I have told you of.

PSEUDOLUS
apart . I'll address this person in a very lofty strain.

CALIDORUS
Whose voice is it that's heard here?

PSEUDOLUS
Oh! thee, sovereign lord, thee, oh! thee do I address who dost rule

over Pseudolus: thee do I seek, to impart to thee delights thrice three, threefold, acquired by three contrivances, obtained over three persons through craftiness and through subtlety, which in this very little sealed packet I have brought unto you. *Holds up the letter.*

CALIDORUS
That's the fellow; how the hang-dog does bluster just like a tragedian.

PSEUDOLUS
Advance a step on thy side towards me. Boldly stretch forth thine arm for greeting.

CALIDORUS
taking his hand . Tell me, Pseudolus, whether, as Hope or as Safety, must I greet you?

PSEUDOLUS
Why both.

CALIDORUS
As both I greet you. But what has been done? Why are you silent? I have carried this person here. *Pointing to CHARINUS.*

PSEUDOLUS
How? Carried him here?

CALIDORUS
Brought, I meant to say.

PSEUDOLUS
Who's this person?

CALIDORUS
Charinus.

PSEUDOLUS
Well done; I return him thanks then.

CHARINUS
Will you then boldly enjoin me what it is necessary to do?

PSEUDOLUS
My thanks, so far. May it be well with you, Charinus; I don't like that we should be troublesome to you.

CHARINUS
You, troublesome to me? Now, really, that's troublesome.

PSEUDOLUS
Well, then, wait a moment. *Takes the letter out from under his dress.*

CALIDORUS
What's that?

PSEUDOLUS
This letter have I just now intercepted, and the token.

CALIDORUS
Token? What token?

PSEUDOLUS
The one that was brought just now from the Captain. His servant, who was bringing it, with five mineæ of silver, who came to fetch your mistress hence, him I have just now bamboozled.

CALIDORUS
How so?

PSEUDOLUS
For the sake of these Spectators the play is being performed; they know, who were present here; you I'll tell at another time.

CALIDORUS
What are we to do then?

PSEUDOLUS

You shall this day embrace your mistress at liberty.

CALIDORUS
What, I?

PSEUDOLUS
You yourself.

CALIDORUS
I?

PSEUDOLUS
Your own self, I say, if indeed this head shall exist so long; if you'll only quickly find me out a man.

CHARINUS
Of what description?

PSEUDOLUS
A cunning, crafty and clever one, who, when he has once taken hold of the beginning, may by his own ingenuity still hold fast upon what it behoves him to do; one, too, who has not often been seen here.

CHARINUS
If he is a slave, does that matter at all?

PSEUDOLUS
Why, I'd much rather have him than a free man.

CHARINUS
I think that I'm able to procure for you a cunning and clever fellow, that has lately come to my father from Carystus, and hasn't as yet gone anywhere out the house, and who never visited Athens before yesterday.

PSEUDOLUS
You assist in right earnest. But I have need to borrow five minæ of silver, which I shall repay this day, for his father *pointing to*

CALIDORUS owes it me.

CHARINUS
I'll lend it; don't seek it anywhere else.

PSEUDOLUS
O, how convenient a person for me. I have need of a scarf as well, a sword, and a broad-brimmed hat.

CHARINUS
I can provide them from my house.

PSEUDOLUS
Immortal Gods! surely this is not Charinus for me, but Abundance. But this servant, who is come here from Carystus, is there anything in him?

CHARINUS
Plenty of the stinking goat in him.

PSEUDOLUS
It befits the fellow, then, to have a tunic with long sleeves Has the chap anything sharp in his breast?

CHARINUS
Aye, of the very sharpest.

PSEUDOLUS
But if it is necessary for him to draw forth what is sweet from the same place, has he aught of that?

CHARINUS
Do you ask that He has wine of myrrh, sweet raisin wine, spice wine honey wine, sweets of every sort. Why, he once began to set up a hot liquor-shop in his breast.

PSEUDOLUS
Bravissi o! Why, Charinus, you beat me cleverly at my own game.

But what am I to say is the name of this servant?

CHARINUS
Simmia.

PSEUDOLUS
In a difficulty, does he understand how to twirl about?

CHARINUS
A whirlwind is not so ready as he.

PSEUDOLUS
Is he shrewd at all?

CHARINUS
In mischievous tricks very often.

PSEUDOLUS
How, when he's caught in the fact?

CHARINUS
He's a very eel; he slips out.

PSEUDOLUS
Is this fellow an experienced one?

CHARINUS
A public ordinance is not more experienced.

PSEUDOLUS
He is a suitable person, according to what I hear you say.

CHARINUS
Aye, and from this you may know it. When he looks at you he'll tell, of his own accord, what it is you want with him. But what are you about to do?

PSEUDOLUS
I'll tell you. When I've dressed up my man, I intend to make him

become the pretended servant of the Captain; let him take this token to the procurer, with five minæ of silver. There's the whole plot for you. As for the rest, in what way he is to do each thing, I'll instruct himself.

CALIDORUS
Why, therefore, do we stand here then?

PSEUDOLUS
Bring the fellow to me just now, dressed out with all his accoutrements, to Æschinus, the banker's. But make all haste.

CALIDORUS
We'll be there before you.

PSEUDOLUS
Get you gone there quickly. *CALIDORUS and CHARINUS go into SIMO'S house.* Whatever before was uncertain or doubtful in my mind, is now clear-now fined to the dregs; my heart has now an open path. All my legions will I lead forth under their standards with happy omen with favorable auspices, and to my heart's content. I have a certainty that I can rout my enemies. Now will I go to the Forum, and load Simmia with my instructions what he is to do, that he may not be tripping at all, and that he may cleverly lay the train for this plot. Soon now shall I cause the town of this procurer to be carried by storm. *(Exit.)*

ACT III.

Enter a BOY from the house of BALLIO.

A BOY
On that Boy on whom the Gods bestow servitude under a procurer, when they add a base occupation as well, assuredly do they, so far as I now understand in my mind, bestow upon him a great misfortune and miseries manifold. Just as this servitude has turned out to me, where I am set over duties great and small; nor am I able to find any admirer to love me, so that at length I might be fitted out in a little better guise. Now this day is the birthday of this procurer. The procurer has made a determination, from the lowest to the highest, that if each one does not this day send him a present, he shall perish to-morrow with the greatest torments. Now, faith, I know not what to do in my line, for, unless I shall send a present to the procurer this day, to-morrow must I swallow down fullers' produce. And yet I cannot do that which they who can are wont to do. Alas! how little am I, even still for this vocation. And by my troth, now, to my misfortune how fearfully do I dread punishment. If any one lays on whose hand is too heavy, although they say that it generally is done amid great weeping, I think that I am able in some measure to keep my teeth closed. But I must keep close my lips and my talking, for see, my master is betaking himself home, and bringing a Cook with him. *Stands at a distance.*

Enter BALLIO and a COOK.

BALLIO
Those who call it the cook's market, call it so foolishly; for 'tis not a cook's market, but a thieves' market. For if, upon oath, I were to seek out the worst of men, I couldn't have brought a worse one than this fellow that I'm bringing, one, chattering, bragging, silly, and worthless. Why, for this very reason Orcus has declined to take him to himself, that he might be here to cook a banquet for the dead; for here he is able to cook a thing to please them alone.

A COOK.
If you thought of me in this manner that you are mentioning, why did you hire me?

BALLIO
From scarcity; there wasn't another. But why, if you were a cook, were you sitting in the market-place, you alone behind the rest?

A COOK.
I'll tell you. By reason of the avarice of men have I become an inferior cook, not through my own inclination.

BALLIO
For what reason is that?

A COOK.
I'll tell you. Because, in fact, directly people come to hire a cook, no one enquires for him that's the best and the highest priced: rather do they hire him that's the lowest priced. Through this have I to-day been the only sitter in the market. Those wretched fellows are for a drachma a-piece; not any person is able to prevail on me to rise for less than a didrachm. I don't cook a dinner too, like other cooks, who bring me up seasoned meadows of grass upon their dishes; who turn the guests into oxen, and supply the grass. This herbage, too, do they further season with other herbs: put in coriander, fennel, garlick, orage; they add, too, sorrel, cabbage, beet, and spinach. In this they dissolve a pound weight of asafœtida. The roguish mustard is pounded, which makes the eyes of those that pound it drop tears before they have pounded it. These fellows, when they cook dinners, when they do season them, season them, not with seasonings, but with vampyre owls which eat out the bowels of the guests while still alive. Through this, in fact, it is, that people here live such short lives, inasmuch as they heap up these herbs of this sort in their stomachs, dreadful to be mentioned, not only to be eaten. Herbage which the cattle eat not, men eat themselves.

BALLIO

What do you say? Do you use divine seasonings, by which you can prolong the life of men, you, who find fault with these other seasonings?

A COOK.
I proclaim it boldly; for those who shall eat of my victuals which I have seasoned will be able to exist two hundred years even. For when I've put into the saucepan either cicilendrum, or cepolindrum, or mace, or saucaptis, the very dishes become warmed forthwith. These are sauces for fish, the cattle of Neptune; the flesh of the earthly cattle I season with cicimandrum, hapalopsis, or cataractria.

BALLIO
Now may Jupiter and all the Divinities confound you with your sauces, and with all those lies of yours!

A COOK.
Do allow me to speak, please.

BALLIO
Speak, and go to very perdition.

A COOK.
When all the saucepans are hot, I open them all then does the odour fly towards heaven with its handhanging down.

BALLIO
The odour with its hands hanging down?

A COOK.
I made a mistake without thinking.

BALLIO
How so?

A COOK.
With its feet hanging down, I meant to say. Jupiter dines on that odour every day.

BALLIO
If you happen not to go out to cook, pray what does Jupiter dine upon?

A COOK.
He goes to sleep without his dinner.

BALLIO
Go to very perdition. Is it for this reason that I'm to give you a didrachm to-day?

A COOK.
Well, I confess that I am a very high-priced cook; but I make the results of my labour to be seen for the price, hired at which I go out.

BALLIO
In thieving, to wit.

A COOK.
And do you expect to meet with any cook except with the claws of a kite or of an eagle?

BALLIO
And do you expect to go anywhere to cook, and not to cook the dinner there with your claws tied up? Now, therefore, you boy *to the BOY* , who are my servant, I now give you notice to make haste to remove hence all my property; and to keep his eyes as well in your sight. Whichever way he shall look, do you look the same way as well. If he shall move in any direction, do you move as well. If he shall put forth his hand, put you forth your hand as well. If he shall take anything of his own, do you suffer him to take it; if he shall take what's mine, do you on the other side hold him fast. If he shall stoop to the ground, do you stoop there as well. Likewise over your understrappers I shall appoint a single guard a-piece.

A COOK.
Only have good courage.

BALLIO
Prithee, tell me how I possibly can have good courage, who am taking you home to my house?

A COOK.
Because, by my broth, this day will I do just in the way that Medea cooked up the old man Pelias whom she is said by a draught and by her potions from an aged man to have made young again; so will I make you likewise.

BALLIO
How now; are you an enchanter as well?

A COOK.
Why no, by my troth, I am rather a preserver of mankind.

BALLIO
Well now; for how much would you teach me that one point in cooking?

A COOK.
What point?

BALLIO
That I may preserve you from pilfering anything from me.

A COOK.
For a didrachm, if you believe me; if not, not for a mina even. But whether are you about to-day to give a dinner, to your friends or to your enemies?

BALLIO
Why, faith, to my friends surely.

A COOK.
But why don't you invite your enemies to it rather than your friends? For this day will I present to the guests a banquet so savoury, and I'll season it with such a dulcet sweetness, that whoever shall taste each

thing that's seasoned, I'll make that same person to gnaw off the ends of his own fingers.

BALLIO
Troth now, prithee, before you shall present aught to the guests do you yourself first taste, and give some to your understrappers, that you may gnaw off the ends of your own pilfering hands.

A COOK.
Perhaps then you don't believe me in the things that I say.

BALLIO
Don't you be troublesome; you din me too much; you don't please me by it. See, there I live. *Points to his house.* Do you go in-doors and cook the dinner, with all speed.

A BOY
Why don't you go, and take your place? Go and find the guests; the dinner's spoiling already. *COOK and BOY go into the house.*

BALLIO
Now, just look, please, at that young offshoot; for he, too, is a good-for-nothing deputy-scullion for the cook. Truly I don't know what now first to be on my guard against; such thieves there are in my house, and there's a robber close at hand. For my neighbour here, the father of Calidorus, a short time since, in the market-place, asked me by all means to be on my guard against his servant Pseudolus, not to put any trust in him; for that he is on the hunt this day, if possible to dupe me out of the woman. He said that he had stoutly promised to him that he would get away Phœnicium from me by stratagem. I'll now go indoors and give notice to my household, that no one must put any trust whatever in this Pseudolus. *Goes into his house.*

ACT IV.

Enter PSEUDOLUS.

PSEUDOLUS
If the immortal Gods ever did determine that any person should be assisted by their aid, now do they intend that Calidorus shall be preserved for me, and the procurer destroyed, inasmuch as they produced you for my assistant, so clever and so knowing a fellow. *(Looking back.)* But where is he? am I not a silly fellow to be thus talking to myself alone? I' faith, he has put a trick upon myself, as I fancy; myself one knave, I have been poorly on my guard against another knave. By my troth I'm undone, if this fellow's off, and I shall not carry into effect this day what I intended. But see, there he is, a statue that deserves a whipping; how stately he does stalk along! *HARPAX.*

PSEUDOLUS
How now! By my faith I was looking about for you; I was very greatly afraid that you were off.

SIMO
It was my character to do so, I confess.

PSEUDOLUS
Where were you loitering?

SIMO
Where I pleased.

PSEUDOLUS
That I know well enough already.

SIMO
Why then do you ask me what you know?

PSEUDOLUS

Why this I want, to put you in mind.

SIMO
Needing to be put in mind yourself, don't you be putting me in mind.

PSEUDOLUS
Really I am treated by you quite with contempt.

SIMO
And why shouldn't I treat you with contempt, I who have the repute of being a military gentleman?

PSEUDOLUS
I want this then, which has been commenced, to be completed.

SIMO
Do you see me a-doing anything else?

PSEUDOLUS
Therefore walk on briskly.

SIMO
No, I choose to go slowly.

PSEUDOLUS
This is the opportunity; while this Harpax is asleep, I want you to be the first to accost him.

SIMO
Why are you hurrying? Softly; don't you fear. I wish Jupiter would so make it, that he were openly in the same place with me, whoever he is, that has arrived from the Captain. Never a jot, by my troth, should he be a bit the better Harpax than I. Have good courage, I'll have this business nicely accounted for to you. So by my tricks and lies would I put this military stranger in a fright that he himself would deny that he is the person that he is, and would believe me to be the person that he himself is.

PSEUDOLUS
How can that be?

SIMO
You are murdering me when you ask me that.

PSEUDOLUS
A clever fellow.

SIMO
And so are you too, who are quite my equal with your mischievous tricks and lies * * * * * * *

PSEUDOLUS
May Jupiter preserve you for me.

SIMO
Aye, and for myself. But look, does this dress become me quite well?

PSEUDOLUS
It suits very well.

SIMO
Be it so.

PSEUDOLUS
May the Deities grant you as many blessings as you may wish for yourself. For if I were to wish for as many as you are deserving of, they would be less than nothing; *aside* nor have I ever seen any one more of a rogue than this fellow.

SIMO
overhearing him . Do you say that to me?

PSEUDOLUS
This man’s an honest fellow.

SIMO

It is neither this person, then *pointing to PSEUDOLUS* , nor myself.

PSEUDOLUS
But take care that you don't be tripping.

SIMO
Can't you hold your tongue? He that puts a man in mind of that which, remembering it, he does keep in mind, causes him to forget it. I recollect everything; they are stored up in my breast; my plans are cleverly laid.

PSEUDOLUS
I'm silent. But what good turn shall I do you if you carry through this matter with management? So may the Gods love me ——

SIMO
They won't do so; you'll be uttering sheer falsehoods then.

PSEUDOLUS
How I do love you, Simmia, for your roguery, and both fear and laud you.

SIMO
That I have learned to make a present of to others; you can't put your flatteries on me.

PSEUDOLUS
In how delightful a manner I shall receive you this day, when you have completed this matter.

SIMO
Ha, ha, ha! *Laughing.*

PSEUDOLUS
With nice viands, wine, perfumes, and titbits between our cups. There, too, shall be a charming damsel, who shall give you kiss upon kiss.

SIMO
You will be receiving me in a delightful manner.

PSEUDOLUS
Aye, and if you effect it, then I'll make you say so still more.

SIMO
If I don't effect it, do you, the executioner, take me off to torture. But make haste and point out to me where is the door of the procurer's house.

PSEUD.
'Tis the third hence.

SIMO
Hist! hush! the door's opening.

PSEUDOLUS
In my mind, I believe that the house is poorly.

SIMO
Why so?

PSEUDOLUS
Because, i' faith, it is vomiting forth the procurer. *BALLIO is coming out of his house.*

SIMO
Is this he?

PSEUDOLUS
This is his own self.

SIMO
'Tis a worthless commodity.

PSEUDOLUS
Do see that: he doesn't go straight, but sideways, just as a crab is

wont. *They conceal themselves from BALLIO.*

Enter BALLIO from his house.

BALLIO
I do believe that this fellow is not so bad a cook as I thought he was; for he has clawed off nothing as yet except a cup and a tankard.

PSEUDOLUS
apart to SIMMIA . Hallo you! now's your opportunity and your time.

SIMO
I agree with you.

PSEUDOLUS
Step slily out into the street; I'll be here in ambush. *SIMMIA steps forward, and then walks along the middle of the street to meet BALLIO.*

SIMO
talking aloud to himself . I took the number carefully; this is the sixth lane from the city gate; down that lane he bade me turn; how many houses down he told me, that I don't quite know for certain.

BALLIO
eyeing SIMMIA . Who's this fellow in the scarf, or whence does he come, or whom is he looking for? The appearance of the fellow seems outlandish and shabby.

SIMO
But see, here's a person, who, from uncertainty, will make the thing more certain for me that I wish to know.

BALLIO
He's coming straight towards me. Where in the world am I to say this fellow comes from?

SIMO

Harkye! you who are standing there with a goat's beard, answer me this that I ask you.

BALLIO
How now! Don't you salute me first?

SIMO
with a surly voice . I have no salutations to give away.

BALLIO
Well, troth, you shall get just as much from here then.

PSEUDOLUS
from behind . Well done, at the very beginning.

SIMO
Do you know any person in this lane, I ask you?

BALLIO
I know myself.

SIMO
Few persons do that which you mention; for in the Forum there is hardly every tenth person that knows his own self.

PSEUDOLUS
from behind . I'm all right; he is philosophizing now.

SIMO
I'm looking for a fellow here, a bad one, a law breaker, an impious, perjured, and dishonest rogue.

BALLIO
aside . He's looking for me, for those are my titles If he would only mention the name. *To SIMMIA.* What's the name of this person?

SIMO
Ballio, the procurer.

BALLIO
Do I know him? I am the very person, young man, that you are looking for.

SIMO
What, are you Ballio?

BALLIO
I really am he.

SIMO
How you are clothed, a housebreaker * * * * * * * * * * *He takes hold of BALLIO'S cloak.*

BALLIO
I think if you were to see me in the dark, you'd be keeping your hand off.

SIMO
My master bade me present you many greetings. Receive this letter from me; he bade me give you it.

BALLIO
Who's the person that bade you?

PSEUDOLUS
from behind . I'm undone, now the fellow's in the middle of the mud. He doesn't know the name — this business is at a dead lock.

BALLIO
Who do you say sent me this?

SIMO
Observe the seal; do you yourself tell me his name, that I may know that you are Ballio himself.

BALLIO
Give me the letter.

SIMO
Take it, and look at the seal. *Gives him the letter.*

BALLIO
looking at it . Oho! 'Tis nothing more nor less than Polymachæroplagides, his own very self; I recognize it. Hallo you, Polymachæroplagides is his name!

SIMO
I know now that I have rightly given you the letter, since you have mentioned the name of Polymachæroplagides,

BALLIO
How fares he?

SIMO
By my troth, just as a brave man and a good soldier should. But make haste, I beg, to read this letter through, for it is requisite to do so, and to take this money at once and send out the damsel. For it's necessary for me this day to be at Sicyon, or else to suffer death to-morrow; so peremptory is my master.

BALLIO
I know it: you are telling those who know it already.

SIMO
Make haste then to read the letter through.

BALLIO
I'll do so, if you'll only hold your tongue. *He reads the letter.* "The Captain Polymachæroplagides sends this letter, written to the procurer Ballio, sealed with the impression which was formerly agreed upon between us two."

SIMO
The token's in the letter

BALLIO

I see the token and I recognize it. But is he in the habit of sending no greeting written in his letter?

SIMO
Such is the military etiquette, Ballio; with their hand they send health to their well-wishers, and with the same do they send destruction to their evil-wishers. But as you have commenced, go on to ascertain of yourself what this letter says.

BALLIO
Listen then. *Reading on.* "Harpax is my camp-servant, who has come to you." Are you this Harpax?

SIMO
I am, and the real Harpax too.

BALLIO
reading on . "Who brings this letter; I wish the money to be received from him, and the woman to be sent together with him. 'Tis becoming to send greeting to the worthy; had I deemed you worthy, I should have sent it to you."

SIMO
What then?

BALLIO
Pay me the money, take away the woman.

SIMO
Which of us is delaying the matter?

BALLIO
Follow me in-doors then.

SIMO
I'm following. *They go into BALLIO'S house.*

PSEUDOLUS comes forward.

PSEUDOLUS
I' troth, a more artful fellow, and one more skilfully cunning, I never did see than is this same Simmia. Very much do I dread this man, and sadly do I fear that he may prove mischievous against myself just as he has been against him; lest in his prosperity he may now turn his horns against me, if he finds an opportunity. Should he prove mischievous towards me * * * * But, i' faith, for my part I hope not, for I wish well to him. Now in three ways am I in the greatest dread. First of all then, I dread this comrade of mine, lest he should forsake me and go over from me to the enemy. Next do I dread that my master should in the meantime return from the Forum; lest, the booty taken, the plunderers should be taken. Together with these things do I fear, lest that other Harpax should arrive here before this Harpax has departed hence with the woman. By my faith, I'm undone; they are very slow in coming out of doors. With baggage packed up, my heart is waiting, ready, if he doesn't bring out the damsel together with himself, to fly away in exile out from of my breast. * * * * * * *The door of BALLIO'S house opens.* I'm the conqueror — I've got the better of my wary guards.

Enter SIMMIA, from BALLIO'S house, leading PHŒNICIUM.

SIMO
to PHŒNICIUM . Don't weep: you know not how the matter is, Phœnicium; but before long I'll let you know it when you are resting. I'm not leading you to that Macedonian long-teethed fellow, who now causes you to be weeping. To him will I lead you, whose you especially long to be. I'll cause you before very long to be embracing Calidorus.

PSEUDOLUS
Prithee, why did you stay so long in-doors? For how long a time was my heart throbbing with beating against my breast.

SIMO
You have found reason, you whipping-post, with a vengeance to be making enquires of me * * * * * * * amid the ambush of the enemy.

Why don't we go home with all speed with military strides.

PSEUDOLUS
Now, by my troth, although you are a worthless fellow, you advise aright. March in triumphal procession, this way, straight in the path to the festive goblet. *They march off in triumphal procession.*

Enter BALLIO, from his house.

BALLIO
Ha, ha, ha! *laughing.* Now, at last, my mind is in a state of ease, since that fellow has departed hence, and taken away the woman. I should like Pseudolus now to come, that wicked rascal, to carry the woman off from me by his stratagems. I know for sure, right well, that I had rather in solemn form perjure myself a thousand times, than that he should cheat me by making a laughing-stock of me. By my troth now, I'll laugh at the fellow if I meet him. But I guess that he'll soon be on the treadmill, just as befits him. Now I wish for Simo that he would come in my way, in order that he might be joyful in common with my joy.

Enter SIMO.

SIMO
to himself . I'm going to see what business my Ulysses has transacted; whether he now has the statue from the Ballionian citadel.

BALLIO
O, lucky man! give me your lucky hand. *Takes his hand.*

SIMO
What's the matter?

BALLIO
Now.

SIMO
What now?

BALLIO
There's nothing at all for you to fear.

SIMO
What's the matter? Has that fellow Pseudolus come to you?

BALLIO
No.

SIMO
What good fortune is there, then?

BALLIO
Your twenty minæ are safe and sound which Pseudolus stipulated for from you this day.

SIMO
I' faith, I really do wish they were.

BALLIO
Ask of me twenty minæ if he this day gets hold of that woman, or gives her to your son this day, as he has promised. On my word, prithee, do demand them of me; I quite long to promise them. And, besides this, keep the woman as a present for yourself, that in every way you may know that your money's safe.

SIMO
There's no danger that I know of in making this bargain. According as you have solemnly pledged your word, will you give me twenty minæ?

BALLIO
They shall be given.

SIMO
This, indeed, is not sa badly done. But have you met the fellow?

BALLIO

Aye, both of them together.

SIMO
What did he say? What did ho talk about? Prithee, what did he mention to you?

BALLIO
Theatrical nonsense; expressions which, in comedies, are wont to be used to a procurer, which boys are acquainted with. He said that I was worthless, and wicked, and forsworn.

SIMO
I' faith, he told no lie.

BALLIO
'Twas for that reason I wasn't angry. For what matters it for you to speak uncivilly to him who cares not for it, and who don't deny the truth of what you say?

SIMO
Why is it that you are in no fear of him? That I'm longing to hear.

BALLIO
Because he never will carry the woman off now, nor is he able. Don't you yourself remember that I told you, some time since, that she had been sold to a Macedonian officer?

SIMO
I remember.

BALLIO
Well, his servant just now brought me the money, and the token with the impression, which had been arranged between himself and me.

SIMO
What then?

BALLIO

He took away with him the woman, not long since.

SIMO
Do you say this in real truth?

BALLIO
Whence could I possibly have that quality?

SIMO
Do you only take care that he hasn't been playing some trick there.

BALLIO
The letter and the impress on the seal make me sure. Indeed, 'twas but just now he took her off for Sicyon.

SIMO
Troth now, 'twas well done. Why do I delay to make Pseudolus give a name to a colony at the mill-stones? But who's this fellow in the scarf?

BALLIO
I don't know, i' faith; however, let's observe whither he's going, and what business he's upon. *They stand on one side.*

Enter HARPAX.

HARPAX
to himself . That slave's a base and worthless fellow, who values his master's commands at nought; and he, too, is good for nothing who is forgetful to do his duty unless he's put in mind. But those who forthwith deem themselves to be at liberty, when they have hidden themselves from the sight of their master, who riot, wench, devour what they have, — aye, what they have not, — long do those same endure the name of servitude. Nor is there any good disposition in them, except only that they may uphold themselves by their dishonest contrivances. With these, neither their company nor their conversation suits me, nor by these persons have I been ever known. Although he is away, I consider my master as being here; I fear him

when he isn't here, that I may not have to fear him when he is here. Therefore, as I have been ordered, to this business will I give my attention. But that Syrus, to whom I gave the token, would have been letting me stay even yet in the shop. As he bade me, I stayed there; he said that he would send for me when the procurer was at home. But since he hasn't come, or called me while staying there, I'm come hither of my own accord, that I may know what is the fact, that that fellow mayn't be playing tricks with me. And there is nothing better than that I should knock at this door, and call some out here from indoors. I want this procurer to take this money of me, and to send off this woman with me. *Goes towards BALLIO'S door.*

BALLIO
from behind, to SIMO . Hark you!

SIMO
apart . What do you want?

BALLIO
apart . This fellow's my own. SIMO. *apart* . How so?

BALLIO
apart, pointing to the purse in the hand of HARPAX . Because that booty's mine. He's in search of a mistress he has got money. I already long to fix my teeth in him.

SIMO
apart . Are you going to devour him already?

BALLIO
apart . While he's fresh, while he's in the habit of giving away, while he's warm upon it, 'tis proper for him to be gobbled up. The good men keep me poor, the bad ones support me; the virtuous are a benefit to the public, the debauched to myself.

SIMO
aside . A mischief may the Gods send you; such a villain are you.

BALLIO
apart . Venus bestows upon me these blessings, when she drives hither these haters of money, these who quite long for losses, who carefully pamper themselves and their youthful age, eat, drink, and wench. Of quite different dispositions are they and you.

HARPAX
to himself . I'm now delaying myself, in not knocking at this door, that I may know whether or no Ballio is at home now. *Calls out, going up to the door.* Hallo! where are you? Hallo! where are you?

BALLIO
apart . Why, he's going straight up towards my house. I shall come off finely loaded with plunder from this fellow; I know it's a lucky omen for me.

HARPAX
knocking violently at the door . Does any one come to open this door?

BALLIO
calling out to him . Hallo! you in the scarf, what's owing you at that house?

HARPAX
I'm enquiring for Ballio, the procurer, the master of the house.

BALLIO
Whoever you are, young man, make short work of your enquiries.

HARPAX
Why so?

BALLIO
Because he himself in person sees you in his presence before him.

HARPAX
What, are you he?

SIMO
You in the scarf, take you care, please, of some crooked misfortune, and point your finger at him; this fellow is a procurer.

BALLIO
pointing to SIMO . And this is an honest man. *To SIMO.* But you, worthy fellow, are many a time being hunted after in the Forum with noise enough, when you haven't a groat in the world, unless this procurer here comes to help you a bit.

HARPAX
But why don't you address yourself to me?

BALLIO
I do address you. What is it you want?

HARPAX
You to take this money. *He holds out the five minæ.*

BALLIO
holding out his hand . Already have I extended my hand, if you are going to give it.

HARPAX
Take it; here are five picked minæ of silver counted out. *Gives him the money.* This did my master, Polymachæroplagides. order me to deliver to you, the sum which he was owing, and that you were to send Phœnicium with me.

BALLIO
Your master?

HARPAX
I say to that effect.

BALLIO
The Captain?

HARPAX
I speak to that effect.

BALLIO
The Macedonian?

HARPAX
Such is the fact, I say.

BALLIO
Polymachæroplagides sent you to me?

HARPAX
You say what's fact.

BALLIO
To give me this money?

HARPAX
If you really are the procurer Ballio.

BALLIO
And for you to take away the woman from me?

HARPAX
Even so.

BALLIO
Did he say that it was Phœnicium?

HARPAX
You remember it exactly.

BALLIO
Wait there; I'll return to you this instant.

HARPAX
Make haste, then, with all speed, for I'm in a hurry. 'Tis now late in the day, d'ye see?

BALLIO
I see; still I wish to call this person aside. Do you only wait there; I'll return to you this instant. *He takes SIMO on one side.* What's to be done now, Simo? What are we to do? I've detected this fellow that has brought the money in the fact.

SIMO
How so?

BALLIO
And don't you understand what this plan is?

SIMO
About as much as the most ignorant do.

BALLIO
Your servant, Pseudolus, has sent this fellow on the message, as though he was from the Macedonian Captain.

SIMO
Have you got the money from the fellow?

BALLIO
Do you ask about that which you see? *Shows the purse in his hand.*

SIMO
Harkye, remember to give me one half of that plunder. It's right that that should be in common.

BALLIO
Why, plague on't, 'tis all your own.

HARPAX
coming forward a step . How soon are you going to attend to me?

BALLIO
I'll attend to you, indeed. *Aside.* What now do you advise me to do, Simo?

SIMO
aside . Let’s make some fun of this counterfeit spy, even until he himself shall be sensible that he is being made a fool of.

BALLIO
Follow me. *To HARPAX.* What have you to say? You are his servant, I suppose?

HARPAX
Most certainly.

BALLIO
At what price did he purchase you?

HARPAX
With the victory of his prowess in battle; for I was a very great general at home in my own country.

BALLIO
Why, did he ever capture a gaol in your country?

HARPAX
If you utter affronting speeches, you’ll be hearing them.

BALLIO
In what time did you come from Sicyon hither?

HARPAX
In one day, by noon.

SIMO
Bravo! By my troth, you did come quickly; how very swift of foot this man is.

BALLIO
When you look at his calves, you might know that he can wear heavy fetters. How say you — were you also, when a child, in the habit of sleeping in a cradle?

SIMO
Of course.

BALLIO
And were you, too, in the habit of doing — you know what I mean?

SIMO
Of course he was in the habit of doing as other children did?

HARPAX
Are you men in your senses?

BALLIO
What, because I asked you that? At night, when the Captain was going on guard, and when you were going with him, did the sword of the officer fit your scabbard?

HARPAX
Go to utter perdition.

BALLIO
You, indeed, shall have the opportunity of going there in good time to-day.

HARPAX
But do you bring out the woman to me, or else give me back the money.

BALLIO
Wait a bit.

HARPAX
Why should I wait?

BALLIO
That scarf, tell me for how much it has been lent.

HARPAX

What matters it?

SIMO
How much is the sword hired for?

HARPAX
These fellows surely stand in need of hellebore.

BALLIO
How now — *Takes hold of him.* HAR. *repulsing him* . Leave me alone.

BALLIO
What wages does that broad-brimmed hat hire to-day for its owner?

HARPAX
What owner?

SIMO
What do the shoes? * * * * * * *

HARPAX
What are you dreaming about? Why, I'm the owner of all these things, bought with my own savings.

BALLIO
Those, you mean, which the upper part of your thighs supports.

HARPAX
aside . These old fellows have been anointed; they want themselves rubbed down, after the old-fashioned custom.

BALLIO
I' faith, prithee, answer me this truly and seriously, which I ask of you: What are you to earn? For how trifling a sum has Pseudolus hired you?

HARPAX

Who is this Pseudolus?

BAR.
Your tutor, who has instructed you in this knavery, to take away the woman hence from me by stratagem.

HARPAX
What Pseudolus, and what stratagem are you talking to me about? A person that I know of no colour, black or white.

BALLIO
Will you not be off from here? There's no profit here for swindlers to-day. Therefore you may tell Pseudolus that another person has carried off the prize-the first Harpax that came.

HARPAX
On my word, I really am that Harpax.

BALLIO
Aye, on my word, you want to be. This is nothing more nor less than a downright impostor.

HARPAX
I have given yourself the money, and a while ago, immediately on my arrival, the token to your servant; a letter sealed with the likeness of my master, here before the door.

BALLIO
You gave a letter to my servant? What servant?

HARPAX
To Syrus.

BALLIO
to SIMO . The wicked rogue has assurance enough. He hasn't contrived his knavish scheme amiss. By my faith, that whipping-post of a fellow, Pseudolus, how cleverly he has managed his plans; just as much money as the Captain owed, he has given this man, and has

dressed out the fellow that he might take away the woman * * * * * * * * *To HARPAX.* But the real Harpax himself brought that letter hither to me.

HARPAX
My name is Harpax; I am the servant of the Macedonian Captain. I'm doing nothing roguishly or cheatingly, nor do I know or understand this Pseudolus, what mortal being he is.

SIMO
Unless it's something wonderful, procurer, you've clearly lost the woman.

BALLIO
Assuredly, by my troth, I'm in dread of that more and more, when I come to hear his words. I' faith, that Syrus, too, has already set my heart a-freezing, that received the token from him.

SIMO
'Tis a wonder if it isn't Pseudolus. *To HARPAX.* How now, you! of what appearance was the person to whom you delivered the token?

HARPAX
A certain red-haired fellow, pot-bellied, with thick calves, swarthy, with a big head, sharp eyes, red face, and very large feet.

BALLIO
You prove our undoing, when you mention the feet. It was Pseudolus himself. It's all up with me. I'm dying now, Simo.

HARPAX
By my troth, I shan't let you die, unless the money's returned me- twenty minæ.

SIMO
And another twenty minæ to me as well.

BALLIO

to SIMO . And is the sum to be taken of me that I promised by way of a joke?

SIMO
From unprincipled men it's proper for both their money and their plunder to be taken.

BALLIO
At least you might give up Pseudolus to me.

SIMO
I, give up Pseudolus to you? What has he done amiss? Did I not tell you a hundred times that you were to beware of him?

BALLIO
He has ruined me.

SIMO
And on me he has laid a fine of twenty fair minæ.

BALLIO
What am I to do then?

HARPAX
When you have given me the money — go hang yourself.

BALLIO
The Gods confound you. *To HARPAX.* Follow me, then, this way, please, to the Forum, that I may pay you.

HARPAX
I follow you.

SIMO
What am I to do?

BALLIO
Strangers I'll pay at once; to-morrow I'll settle with fellow-citizens.

Pseudolus has been holding a councilgeneral against my life, in sending that fellow to me to-day to carry off the woman. *To HARPAX.* Do you follow me, *To the AUDIENCE.* Now don't you be expecting that I shall be returning home this way. As matters stand, I've determined to go through the alleys.

HARPAX
If you had walked at the rate you talk, you'd by this have been at the Forum.

BALLIO
I'm determined to make this, instead of my birthday, my dying day. *(Exit BALLIO, HARPAX following.)*

SIMO, alone

SIMO
I've touched this fellow handsomely, and cleverly has my servant managed his adversary. Now am I resolved to lie in ambush for Pseudolus in a different manner to what's done in other plays, where people lie in wait with goads or whips. Without revenge will I at once pay down the twenty minæ which I promised if he should effect it. I'll carry them to him of my own accord. This creature is very clever, very cunning, very artful. Pseudolus has surpassed the Trojan stratagem and Ulysses too. Now I'll be off in-doors. I'll take out the money; I'll lie in ambush for Pseudolus. *Goes into his house.*

ACT V.

Enter PSEUDOLUS, drunk, with a chaplet on his head.

PSEUDOLUS
staggering . How's this? And is it the fact? Feet-are you standing or not? Or is it this you want, some; one to pick me up here as I lie? But, by my faith, if I do fall down, yours will be the fault. Are you going to go? Heigho! I must wait upon myself. This is the great fault in wine; it first lays hold of the feet; 'tis a cunning wrestler. By my faith, assuredly am I now come off right well drenched; with such exquisite viands, with such becoming elegance, in such a delightful place, have we been delightfully entertained. What's the need for me to make much prosing? This is the thing for a man, an object for him to pass his life for; here are all pleasures and all delights. I think that the ecstasy is equal to that of the Deities, when the lover embraces his mistress, when he places lip to lip, when melting kisses are exchanged, when breast is pressed to breast, or else, if they please, they are locked in strict embrace; then for your most loving mistress, with her white hand, to be pledging you in the luscious goblet, for no one there to be disagreable to another, for no one to be indulging in silly conversation; for unguents and perfumes, ribbons and festive wreaths, to be provided in profusion; and for the rest of the entertainment, too, to be provided in no niggardly style. That no one may have to question me then, in this manner have myself and my young master been spending this day in jollity. After I had fulfilled all my task just as I intended, the enemy put to flight, I was leaving them reclining and drinking, each lover with his mistress, and my own mistress there as well, indulging heart and soul. But after I had risen, they begged me to dance. After this fashion *he dances* did I show myself off there quite charmingly, in a master-like style, to wit; for I am thoroughly acquainted with the Ionian step. Thus, clad in my little mantle, full of fun, I was stepping about, this way. Some of them clapped me, others cried out for me to dance again. In that same Ionian fashion once again did I begin to take a turn; I presented myself to my mistress, that she might caress me; as I was pirouetting,

down I tumbled: that was the funeral dirge for my sport. And so, while I was a-struggling to get up, near —— , almost, I mean, I soiled my mantle. Then, by my troth, I was the cause of plenteous mirth. A goblet was presented me on account of my fall. Forthwith I changed my mantle, and put on this; thence have I come hither, that I might get rid of my surfeit. Now I'm going to my old master, to put him in mind of our bargain. Open-open the door. Hallo, there! Tell Simo, somebody, that I'm here. *Knocks at the door of SIMO'S house.*

Enter SIMO, from his house.

SIMO
The voice of a rascally fellow is calling me out of doors. *He stares at PSEUDOLUS.* But what's this? How's this? What is it I see in this guise?

PSEUDOLUS
staggering towards him . Your own Pseudolus, drunk, with a chaplet on.

SIMO
to himself . By my troth, this is free and easy indeed. But see his attitude; is he on my account a bit the more afraid? I'm thinking whether I shall address him harshly or kindly. But this *pointing to a purse in his hand* that I'm carrying forbids me to use rough measures towards him just now; if there's any hope for me, centred in this.

PSEUDOLUS
staggering up to SIMO . A worthless fellow is coming to meet the best of men.

SIMO
May the Gods bless you, Pseudolus. *PSEUDOLUS eructates.* Foh! go to utter perdition. *Pushes him away.*

PSEUDOLUS
But why should I have that mischance befal me?

SIMO
Why, the plague, in your drunkenness, are you eructating in my face?

PSEUDOLUS
Hold me up, steadily; take care that I don't fall. Don't you see me, how drenched and soaking I am?

SIMO
What impudence is this, for you to be going about this way in broad daylight, drunk, with a chaplet on?

PSEUDOLUS
Such is my pleasure. *Eructates again.* SIMO. Why your pleasure? Do you persist in eructating in my very face?

PSEUDOLUS
An eructation is comforting to me; do indulge me in it; do but stand off.

SIMO
For my part I really do believe, you villain, that you are able in a single hour to drink up four right plentiful vintages of the Massic hills.

PSEUDOLUS
A winter hour, add.

SIMO
You don't remind me amiss. But tell me, however, whence I am to say that you are bringing your deeply-laden bark?

PSEUDOLUS
I've just been having a thorough bout with your son. That damsel is the cause of this; along with your son she is carousing, a free woman.

SIMO
You are a most worthless fellow.

PSEUDOLUS
But, Simo, wasn't Ballio nicely diddled? How well I carried what I told you into effect.

SIMO
I know everything in its order, just as you managed each particular.

PSEUDOLUS
Why, then, do you hesitate to pay me the money?

SIMO
You ask what's just, I confess; take it. *Gives him the money.*

PSEUDOLUS
But you declared that you wouldn't give it me; and still do you give it.

SIMO
Are you laughing at me? What? Are you going to take this from your master, Pseudolus?

PSEUDOLUS
With most willing heart and soul.

SIMO
Prithee, can't you venture to make me an abatement of some portion of this money?

PSEUDOLUS
No: you shall say that I really am a greedy fellow; for you shall never be richer by a single coin of this money.

SIMO
Well, I really didn't suppose that it would ever come to pass with me that I should be begging of you.

PSEUDOLUS
Load your shoulder with it, and follow me this way. *Pointing.*

SIMO
I — load myself with that?

PSEUDOLUS
You will load yourself, I'm sure.

SIMO
What am I to do to this fellow? Doesn't he, contrary to my expectation, take my money, and then laugh at me?

PSEUDOLUS
Woe to the conquered: turn your back, then. *Turns him round.*

SIMO
Oh! oh! desist. Let me alone — I'm in pain.

PSEUDOLUS
Were you not in pain, I should be in pain; and no compassion would you have had for my back, if I hadn't this day managed this.

SIMO
There will be an opportunity for me to be revenged on you, if I live.

PSEUDOLUS
Why do you threaten? I've got a back of my own.

SIMO
Very well, then. *Moves as if going.* PSEUD. Come you back then.

SIMO
Why come back?

PSEUDOLUS
Only come you back; you shall not be deceived.

SIMO
turns round . I am come back. PSEUD. Come and have a drink with me.

SIMO
What — I, come?

PSEUDOLUS
Do as I ask you. If you do come, I'll let you take half of this, or even more. *Points to the purse in his hand.*

SIMO
I'll come; take me where you like, Pseudolus.

PSEUDOLUS
How now then? Are you at all angry with me or with your son, Simo, on account of these matters?

SIMO
Certainly, not at all.

PSEUDOLUS
going . Step this way now.

SIMO
I follow you. But why don't you invite the Spectators as well?

PSEUDOLUS
turning round . I' faith, they are not in the habit of inviting me; and, therefore, I don't invite them. But if you *addressing the AUDIENCE* are willing to applaud and approve of this company of players, and this Comedy, I invite you for to-morrow.

RUDENS

Translated by Henry Thomas Riley

Rudens, which translates from Latin as ‘The Rope’, tells the story of Palaestra, who is stolen from her parents by pirates, and reunited with her father, Daemones, ironically, by means of her pimp, Labrax. The story is, however, far more complex; in particular, humour is derived from the interactions between slaves and masters, and the changes in friendships throughout. The play is set in Cyrene, in northern Africa, although the characters come from a range of cities around the Mediterranean, most notably, Athens.

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THE SUBJECT

DÆMONES, an aged Athenian, having lost his property, goes to live in retirement near the sea-shore of Cyrene, in the vicinity of the Temple of Venus. It so happens that Labrax, a Procurer, makes purchase of two damsels, Palæstra and Ampelisca, and comes to reside at Cyrene. Plesidippus, a young Athenian, sees Palæstra there, and falls in love with her; and making an arrangement with the Procurer, gives him a sum in part payment for her, on which occasion, Labrax invites him to a sacrifice in the Temple of Venus. A Sicilian guest of his, however, named Charmides, persuades him to carry the young women over to Sicily, where he is sure to make a greater profit by them. On this, the Procurer, accompanied by his guest, sets sail with them. A tempest arises, and they are shipwrecked. The young women escape in a boat, and arriving ashore, are hospitably received by the Priestess of Venus. Labrax and Charmides also escape, and on discovering where the women are, the former attempts to drag them by force from the Temple. On this they are protected by Dæmones and Plesidippus, who, through Trachalio, finds out where they are. In the wreck a wallet has been lost, which belongs to Labrax, and in which is a casket enclosing some trinkets belonging to Palæstra. Gripus, a servant of Dæmones, draws this up with the rope attached to his net; and by means of these trinkets it is discovered that Palæstra is the daughter of Dæmones, whom he had lost in her infancy; on which she is given in marriage to Plesidippus by her father, who becomes reconciled to Labrax.

THE ACROSTIC ARGUMENT.

[Supposed to have been written by Priscian the Grammarian.]

A FISHERMAN draws a wallet out of the sea in his net (Reti), in which (Ubi) are the trinkets of his master's daughter, who, having been stolen, had come into the possession of a Procurer as her owner (Dominum). She (Ea), having suffered shipwreck (Naufragio), without knowing it comes under the protection of her own father; she is recognized, and is married to her (Suo) lover Plesidippus.
ARCTURUS

WITH him who sways all nations, seas, and lands, I am a fellow-citizen in the realms of the Gods. I am, as you see, a bright and shining star, a Constellation that ever in its season rises here on earth and in the heavens. Arcturus is my name. By night, I am glittering in the heavens and amid the Gods, passing among mortals in the day. Other Constellations, too, descend from the heavens upon the earth; Jove, who is the ruler of Gods and men — he disperses us here in various directions among the nations, to observe the actions, manners, piety, and faith of men, just as the means of each avail him. Those who commence villanous suits at law upon false testimony, and those who, in court, upon false oath deny a debt, their names written down, do we return to Jove. Each day does he learn who here is calling for vengeance. Whatever wicked men seek here to gain their cause through perjury, who succeed before the judge in their unjust demands, the same case adjudged does he judge over again, and he fines them in a penalty much greater than the results of the judgment they have gained. The good men written down on other tablets does he keep. And still these wicked persons entertain a notion of theirs, that they are able to appease Jupiter with gifts, with sacrifice; both their labour and their cost they lose. This, for this reason, is so, because no petition of the perjured is acceptable to Him. If any person that is supplicating the Deities is pious, he will more easily procure pardon for himself than he that is wicked. Therefore I do advise you this, you who are good and who pass your

lives in piety and in virtue — still persevere, that one day you may rejoice that so you did. Now, the reason for which I've come hither, I will disclose to you. First, then, Diphilus has willed the name of this city to be Cyrene. There *pointing to the cottage* dwells Dæmones, in the country and in a cottage very close adjoining to the sea, an old gentleman who has come hither in exile from Athens, no unworthy man. And still, not for his bad deserts has he left his country, but while he was aiding others, meanwhile himself he embarrassed: a property honorably acquired he lost by his kindly ways. Long since, his daughter, then a little child, was lost; a most villanous fellow bought her of the thief, and this Procurer brought the maiden hither to Cyrene. A certain Athenian youth, a citizen of this city, beheld her as she was going home from the music-school. He begins to love her; to the Procurer he comes; he purchases the damsel for himself at the price of thirty minæ, and gives him earnest, and binds the Procurer with an oath. This Procurer, just as befitted him, did not value at one straw his word, or what, on oath, he had said to the young man. He had a guest, a fit match for himself, an old man of Sicily, a rascal from Agrigentum, a traitor to his native city; this fellow began to extol the beauty of that maiden, and of the other damsels, too, that were belonging to him. On this he began to persuade the Procurer to go together with himself to Sicily; he said that there the men were given to pleasure; that there he might be enabled to become a wealthy man; that there was the greatest profit from courtesans. He prevails. A ship is hired by stealth. Whatever he has, by night the Procurer carries it on board ship from his house; the young man who purchased the damsel of him he has told that he is desirous of performing a vow to Venus. This is the Temple of Venus, here *pointing at it* , and here, for that reason, has he invited the youth hither to a breakfast. From there at once did he embark on board ship, and he carried off the courtesans. Some other persons informed the young man what things were going on, how that the Procurer had departed. When the young man came to the harbour, their ship had got a great way out to sea. When I beheld how that the maiden was being carried off, I brought at the same instant both relief to her and destruction to the Procurer; the storm I rebuked, and the waves of the sea I aroused. For the most violent Constellation of them all am 1,

Arcturus; turbulent I am when rising, when I set, more turbulent still. Now, cast ashore there, both the Procurer and his guest are sitting upon a rock; their ship is dashed to pieces. But this maiden, and another as well, her attendant, affrighted, have leaped from the ship into a boat. At this moment the waves are bringing them from the rocks to land, to the cottage of this old man, who is living here in exile, whose roof and tiles the storm has stript off. And this is his servant who is coming out of doors. The youth will be here just now, and you shall see him, who purchased the maiden of the Procurer. Now, fare ye well, and may your foes distrust themselves. *(Exit.)*

ACT I.

Enter SCEPARNIO, with a spade on his shoulder.

SCEPARNIO
to himself . O ye immortal Gods, what a dreadful tempest has Neptune sent us this last night! The storm has unroofed the cottage. What need of words is there? It was no storm, but what Alcmena met with in Euripides; it has so knocked all the tiles from off the roof; more light has it given us, and has added to our windows.

Enter PLESIDIPPUS, at a distance, talking with three CITIZENS.

PLESIDIPPUS
I have both withdrawn you from your avocations, and that has not succeeded on account of which I've brought you; I could not catch the Procurer down at the harbour. But I have been unwilling to abandon all hope by reason of my remissness; on that account, my friends, have I the longer detained you. Now hither to the Temple of Venus am I come to see, where he was saying that he was about to perform a sacrifice.

SCEPARNIO
aloud to himself, at a distance . If I am wise, I shall be getting ready this clay that is awaiting me. *Falls to work digging.*

PLESIDIPPUS
looking round . Some one, I know not who, is speaking near to me.
Enter DÆMONES, from his house.

DÆM.
Hallo! Sceparnio!

SCEPARNIO
Who's calling me by name?

DÆM.

He who paid his money for you.

SCEPARNIO
turning round . As though you would say, Dæmones, that I am your slave.

DÆM.
There's occasion for plenty of clay, therefore dig up plenty of earth. I find that the whole of my cottage must be covered; for now it's shining through it, more full of holes than a sieve.

PLESIDIPPUS
advancing . Health to you, good father, and to both of you, indeed.
DÆM. Health to you.

SCEPARNIO
to PLESIDIPPUS, who is muffled up in a coat . But whether are you male or female, who are calling him father?

PLESIDIPPUS
Why really, I'm a man.

DÆM.
Then, man, go seek a father elsewhere. I once had an only daughter, that only one I lost. Of the male sex I never had a child.

PLESIDIPPUS
But the Gods will give ——

SCEPARNIO
going on digging . A heavy mischance to you indeed, i' faith, whoever you are, who are occupying us, already occupied, with your prating.

PLESIDIPPUS
pointing to the cottage . Pray are you dwelling there?

SCEPARNIO

Why do you ask that? Are you reconnoitring the place for you to come and rob there?

PLESIDIPPUS
It befits a slave to be right rich in his savings, whom, in the presence of his master, the conversation cannot escape, or who is to speak rudely to a free man.

SCEPARNIO
And it befits a man to be shameless and impudent, for him to whom there's nothing owing, of his own accord to come to the house of another person annoying people.

DÆM.
Sceparnio, hold your tongue. *To PLESIDIPPUS.* What do you want, young man?

PLESIDIPPUS
A mishap to that fellow, who is in a hurry to be the first to speak when his master's present. But, unless it's troublesome, I wish to make enquiry of you in a few words.

DÆM.
My attention shall be given you, even though in the midst of business.

SCEPARNIO
to PLESIDIPPUS . Rather, be off with you to the marsh, and cut down some reeds, with which we may cover the cottage, while it is fine weather.

DÆM.
Hold your tongue. Do you tell me *to PLESIDIPPUS* if you have need of anything.

PLESIDIPPUS
Inform me on what I ask you; whether you have seen here any frizzle-headed fellow, with grey hair, a worthless, perjured, fawning

knave.

DÆM.
Full many a one; for by reason of fellows of that stamp am I living in misery.

PLESIDIPPUS
Him, I mean, who brought with him to the Temple of Venus here two young women, and who was to make preparations for himself to perform a sacrifice either to-day or yesterday.

DÆM.
By my faith, young man, for these very many days past I haven't seen any one sacrificing there; and yet it can't be unknown to me if any one does sacrifice there. They are always asking here for water, or for fire, or for vessels, or for a knife, or for a spit, or for a pot for cooking, or something or other. What need is there of words? I procured my vessels and my well, for the use of Venus, and not my own. There has now been a cessation of it for these many days past.

PLESIDIPPUS
According to the words you utter, you tell me I'm undone.

DÆM.
Really, so far as I'm concerned, i' faith, you may be safe and sound.

SCEPARNIO
stopping in his digging . Hark you, you that are roaming about Temples for the sake of your stomach, 'twere better for you to order a breakfast to be got ready at home. Perhaps you've been invited here to breakfast. He that invited you, hasn't he come at all?

PLESIDIPPUS
'Tis the fact.

SCEPARNIO
There's no risk then in your betaking yourself hence home without your breakfast. It's better for you to be a waiter upon Ceres than

upon Venus; the latter attends to love, Ceres attends to wheat.

PLESIDIPPUS
to DÆMONES . This fellow has been making sport of me in a digraceful manner.

DÆM.
looking out at the side . O ye immortal Gods, Sceparnio, what means those people near the sea-shore?

SCEPARNIO
According to my notion, they've been invited to a parting breakfast.

DÆM.
How so?

SCEPARNIO
Why, because, after dinner, I fancy, they yesterday washed themselves clean; their ship has gone to pieces out at sea.

DÆM.
looking steadfastly . Such is the fact.

SCEPARNIO
But, i' faith, on dry land our cottage and tiles have done the same.

DÆM.
Oh dear! what unfortunate creatures you are; *to SCEPARNIO* how the shipwrecked people are swimming.

PLESIDIPPUS
Prithee, where are these people?

DÆM.
pointing to the distance . This way, to the right; don't you see them near the shore?

PLESIDIPPUS

looking the same way . I see them; *to his FRIENDS* follow me. I only wish it may be he that I'm seeking, that most accursed fellow. *To DÆMONES and SCEPARNIO.* Fare you well.

SCEPARNIO
If you hadn't put us in mind, we should have thought of that ourselves. *(Exeunt PLESIDIPPUS and FRIENDS. SCEPARNIO looks out towards the sea.)* . But, O Palæmon, hallowed associate of Neptune, who art said to be the partner of Hercules, what shocking thing do I see?

DÆM.
What do you see?

SCEPARNIO
I see two young women sitting in a boat alone. How the poor things are being tossed about That's good, that's good, well done. The surge is driving the boat away from the rock towards the shore. Not a pilot could have ever done it better. I don't think that I ever saw billows more huge. They are saved, if they can escape those waves. Now, now's the danger; it has sent one overboard! See you that one whom the waves have thrown out of the boat? Still, she's in a shallow place; she'll easily wade through it now. O capital! now she's safe; she has escaped from the water; she's now on shore. But that other one has now sprung towards the land from the boat — from her alarm she has fallen into the waves upon her knees. She has got up again; if she takes this direction, the matter's safe; *a pause* but she has taken to the right, to utter destruction. Ah, she will be wandering all the day ——

DÆM.
What signifies that to you?

SCEPARNIO
If she should fall down from that rock towards which she is wending her way, she'll be putting a period to her wandering.

DÆM.

If you are about to dine this evening at their expense, I think you may then be concerned for them, Sceparnio; if you are going to eat at my house, I wish your services to be devoted to myself.

SCEPARNIO
You ask what's good and proper.

DÆM.
Then follow me this way.

SCEPARNIO
I follow. *(Exeunt.)*

Enter PALÆSTRA, at a distance, with her clothes torn and drenched.

PALAESTRA
to herself . By heavens, the mishaps of mortals are spoken of as much less bitter than * * * * * * * the sharp pangs that are inflicted in the experience of them * * * * Has this then pleased the Deity, that I, clad in this guise, should, in my terror, be cast upon a spot unknown? Shall I then declare that I have been born to this wretched lot? Do I receive this meed in return for my exemplary piety? For to me it would not prove a hardship to endure this laborious lot, if I had conducted myself undutifully towards my parents or the Gods; but if studiously I have exerted myself to beware of that, then, unduly and unjustly, Deities, you send upon me this. For what henceforth shall the glaringly impious receive, if after this fashion you pay honor to the guiltless? But if I knew that I or my parents had done anything wicked, now should I have grieved the less. But the wickedness of this master of mine is pressing hard upon me, his impiety is causing my woes; everything has he lost in the sea; these are the remains *looking at her dress* of his property. Even she, who was carried together with me in the boat, was washed out by the violence of the waves; I am now alone. If she at least had been saved for me, through her aid my affliction here would have been lighter to me. Now, what hope or aid or what counsel shall I receive, a spot so lonesome here have I lighted upon alone? Here are the rocks, here

roars the sea, and not one individual comes across my path. This dress that I am clothed in forms all my riches quite entirely; nor know I with what food or roof I am to be provided. What hope have I through which to desire to live? Neither am I acquainted with the place, nor was I ever here before. At least I could have wished for some one who would point out to me either a road or a path from these spots; so much am I now at a loss for advice whether to go this way or that; neither, indeed, do I see anywhere near here a cultivated spot. Cold, distraction, and alarm, have taken possession of all my limbs. My parents, you know not of this, that I am now thus wretched; I that was born a woman entirely free, was so to no purpose. Am I at all the less in servitude now, than if I had been born a slave? And never in any way has it been a profit to those who for their own sakes reared me up. *She advances forward, and rests on one side against the cliff.*

Enter AMPELISCA, at a distance, on the other side of the stage, in a similar condition.

AMPELISCA
to herself . What is there better for me, what more to my advantage, than to shut out life from my body? So wretched am I in my existence, and so many deadening cares are there in my breast; so despicable is my lot; I care not for my life; I have lost the hope with which I used to comfort myself. All places have I now rambled about, and through each covert spot have I crawled along, to seek my fellow-slave with voice, eyes, ears, that I might trace her out. And still I find her nowhere, nor have I yet determined whither to go, nor where to seek her, nor, in the meantime, do I find any person here to give me an answer, of whom I might make enquiry. No place, too, is there on earth more solitary than are these spots and this locality. And yet, if she lives, never while I exist will I cease before I discover her alive.

PALAESTRA
aloud . Whose voice is it that sounds close by me here?

AMPELISCA
starting . I am alarmed. Who's speaking near me?

PALAESTRA
Prithee, kind Hope, do come to my aid.

AMPELISCA
It's a woman: a woman's voice reaches my ears. Will you not rescue wretched me from this alarm?

PALAESTRA
Surely a woman's voice reached my ears. Prithee is it Ampelisca?

AMPELISCA
Is it you, Palæstra, that I hear?

PALAESTRA
But why don't I call her by her own name, that she may hear me? *With a loud voice.* Ampelisca!

AMPELISCA
Ha! who's that?

PALAESTRA
'Tis I.

AMPELISCA
Is it Palæstra?

PALAESTRA
It is.

AMPELISCA
Tell me where you are.

PALAESTRA
Troth, I'm now in the midst of a multitude of woes.

AMPELISCA

I am your partner; and no less is my own share than yours. But I long to see you.

PALAESTRA
In that wish you are my rival.

AMPELISCA
Let's follow our voices with our steps; where are you?

PALAESTRA
See, here am I. Step onward towards me, and come straight on to meet me.

AMPELISCA
I'm doing so with care. *They meet in front of the stage.*

PALAESTRA
Give me your hand.

AMPELISCA
Take it.

PALAESTRA
Are you still alive Prithee, tell me.

AMPELISCA
You, indeed, make me now wish to live, since I'm empowered to touch you. How hardly can I persuade myself of this, that I am holding you. Prithee, do embrace me *they embrace* , my only hope; how you are now easing me of all my woes.

PAL. You are beforehand with me in using expressions which belong to me. Now it befits us to be going hence.

AMPELISCA
Prithee, whither shall we go?

PALAESTRA

Let's keep along this sea-shore. *Pointing to the shore.* AMP. Wherever you please, I'll follow.

PALAESTRA
Shall we go along thus with our wet clothing?

AMPELISCA
That which exists, the same must of necessity be borne. *Looking up at the Temple.* But, pray, what's this?

PALAESTRA
What is it?

AMPELISCA
Prithee, don't you see this Temple? *Pointing towards it.*

PALAESTRA
Where is it?

AMPELISCA
On the right hand.

PALAESTRA
I seem to be looking at a place becoming the Divinities.

AMPELISCA
There must be people not far hence; it is so delightful a spot. Whoever the God is, I pray him to relieve us from these troubles, and to succour us females, wretched, helpless, and in distress. *They advance towards the Temple, and kneel down before it.*

Enter PTOLEMOCRATIA, the Priestess, from the Temple of Venus.

PTOLEMOCRATIA
Who are these, that in their prayers are soliciting aid from my Patroness? For the voice of suppliants has brought me hither out of doors. They pay suit to a kind and compliant Goddess and a Patroness that makes no difficulties, and one who is very benevolent.

PALAESTRA
Mother, we bid you hail.

PTOLEMOCRATIA
Maidens, hail to you. But, prithee, whence am I to say that you are hither come with your wet garments, thus wofully arrayed?

PALAESTRA
Just now, we came from a place there *pointing towards the shore* , not a great way from this spot; but it is a great way off from here, whence we have been brought hither.

PTOLEMOCRATIA
Have you been borne, do you mean, by a ship, the wooden steed, over the azure paths?

PALAESTRA
Even so.

PTOLEMOCRATIA
Then it were more fitting that you should have come arrayed in white and provided with victims; it isn't the practice for people to come to this Temple in that fashion. *Pointing at their dresses.*

PALAESTRA
Prithee, whence would you have us, who have been both cast away at sea, to be bringing victims hither? Now, in want of assistance, do we embrace your knees, we who are of hopes undefined in places unknown, that you may receive us under your roof and shelter us, and that you will pity the miseries of us both, who have neither any place of refuge nor hope at hand, nor have anything whatever of our own beyond that which you see.

PTOLEMOCRATIA
Give me your hands, arise, both of you, from off your knees; no one among women is more compassionate than I. *They arise from the ground.* But, maidens, my circumstances are poor and limited; with difficulty I support my own existence; Venus I serve for my

maintenance.

AMPELISCA
Prithee, is this a Temple of Venus?

PTOLEMOCRATIA
I will admit it; I am styled the Priestess of this Temple. But whatever it is, it shall be done by me with a hearty welcome, so far as my means shall suffice. Come with me this way.

PALAESTRA
Kindly and attentively, mother, do you show your attentions to us.

PTOLEMOCRATIA
So I ought to do. *They go into the Temple.*

ACT II.

Enter some FISHERMEN, with lines and nets.

A FISHERMAN.
Persons who are poor live wretchedly in every way, especially those who have no calling and have learned no art. Of necessity must that be deemed enough, whatever they have at home. From our garb, then, you pretty well understand how wealthy we are. These hooks and these rods here are as good to us as a calling and as our clothing. Each day from the city do we come out hither to the sea to seek for forage. Instead of exertion in the wrestling-school and the place for exercise, we have this: sea-urchins, rock-mussels, oysters, limpets, cockles, sea-nettles, sea-mussels and spotted crabs, we catch. After that, we commence our fishing with the hook and among the rocks, and thus we take our food from out of the sea. If success does not befall us, and not any fish is taken, soaked in salt water and thoroughly drenched, we quietly betake ourselves home, and without dinner go to sleep. And since the sea is now in waves so boisterous, no hopes have we; unless we take some cockles, without a doubt we've had our dinners. Now let's adore good Venus here, that she may kindly befriend us to-day. *They advance towards the door of the Temple.*

Enter TRACHALIO, at a distance, in haste.

TRACHALIO
to himself . I've carefully given all attention that I mightn't pass my master anywhere; for when some time since he went out of the house, he said that he was going to the harbour, and he ordered me to come here to meet him at the Temple of Venus. But see, opportunely do I espy some people standing here of whom I may enquire; I'll accost them. *Goes up to the FISHERMEN.* Save you, thieves of the sea, shellfish-gatherers and hook-fishers, hungry race of men, how fare ye? How perish apace?

FISHERMEN of Cyrene.

Just as befits a fisherman with hunger, thirst, and expectation.

TRACHALIO
Have you seen to-day, while you've been standing here, any young man, of courageous aspect, ruddy, stout, of genteel appearance, come by this way, who was taking with him three men in scarfs, with swords?

FISHERMEN of Cyrene.
We know of no one coming this way of that appearance which you mention.

TRACHALIO
Have you seen any old fellow, bald on the forehead and snub-nosed, of big stature, pot-bellied, with eyebrows awry, a narrow forehead, a knave, the scorn of Gods and men, a scoundrel, one full of vile dishonesty and of iniquity, who had along with him two very pretty-looking young women?

FISHERMEN of Cyrene.
One who has been born with qualities and endowments of that sort, 'twere really fitter for him to resort to the executioner than to the Temple of Venus.

TRACHALIO
But tell me if you have seen him.

FISHERMEN of Cyrene.
Really, no one has passed this way. Fare you well.

TRACHALIO
Fare ye well. *(Exeunt FISHERMEN.)*

TRACHALIO
to himself . I thought so; it has come to pass as I suspected; my master has been deceived; the cursed Procurer has taken himself off to distant lands. He has embarked on board ship, and carried the women away; I'm a wizard. He invited my master here to breakfast,

as well, this very spawn of wickedness. Now what is better for me than to wait here in this spot until my master comes? At the same time, if this Priestess of Venus knows anything more, if I see her, I'll make enquiries; she'll give me the information.

Enter AMPELISCA, from the Temple.

AMPELISCA
to the PRIESTESS, within . I understand; here at this cottage *pointing to it* , which is close by the Temple of Venus, you've requested me to knock and ask for water.

TRACHALIO
Whose voice is it that has flown to my ears?

AMPELISCA
Prithee, who's speaking here? Who is it that I see?

TRACHALIO
Isn't this Ampelisca that's coming out from the Temple?

AMPELISCA
Isn't this Trachalio that I see, the servant of Plesidippus?

TRACHALIO
It is she.

AMPELISCA
It is he; Trachalio, health to you.

TRACHALIO
Health, Ampelisca, to you; how fare you?

AMPELISCA
In misery I pass a life not far advanced.

TRACHALIO
Do give some better omen.

AMPELISCA
Still it behoves all prudent persons to confer and talk together. But, prithee, where's your master, Plesidippus?

TRACHALIO
Marry, well said, indeed; as if he wasn't within there. *Pointing to the Temple.*

AMPELISCA
By my troth, he isn't, nor, in fact, has he come here at all.

TRACHALIO
He hasn't come?

AMPELISCA
You say the truth.

TRACHALIO
That's not my way, Ampelisca. But how nearly is the breakfast got ready?

AMPELISCA
What breakfast, I beg of you?

TRACHALIO
The sacrifice, I mean, that you are performing here.

AMPELISCA
Prithee, what is it you are dreaming about?

TRACHALIO
For certain, Labrax invited Plesidippus hither to a breakfast, your master, my master.

AMPELISCA
By my troth, you're telling of no wondrous facts: if he has deceived Gods and men, he has only acted after the fashion of Procurers.

TRACHALIO
Then neither yourselves nor my master are here performing a sacrifice.

AMPELISCA
You are a wizard.

TRACHALIO
What are you doing then?

AMPELISCA
The Priestess of Venus has received here into her abode both myself and Palæstra, after many mishaps and dreadful alarm, and from being in danger of our lives, destitute of aid and of resources.

TEACH.
Prithee, is Palæstra here, the beloved of my master?

AMPELISCA
Assuredly.

TRACHALIO
Great joyousness is there in your news, my dear Ampelisca. But I greatly long to know what was this danger of yours.

AMPELISCA
Last night our ship was wrecked, my dear Trachalio.

TRACHALIO
How, ship? What story's this?

AMPELISCA
Prithee, have you not heard in what way the Procurer intended secretly to carry us away hence to Sicily, and how, whatever there was at home, he placed on board ship? That has all gone to the bottom now.

TRACHALIO

O clever Neptune, hail to thee! Surely, no dicer is more skilful than thyself. Decidedly a right pleasant throw hast thou made; thou didst break a-villain. But where now is the Procurer Labrax?

AMPELISCA
Perished through drinking, I suppose; Neptune last night invited him to deep potations.

TRACHALIO
By my troth, I fancy it was given him to drink by way of cup of necessity. How much I do love you, my dear Ampelisca; how pleasing you are; what honied words you do utter. But you and Palæstra, in what way were you saved?

AMPELISCA
I'll let you know. Both in affright, we leapt from the ship into a boat, because we saw that the ship was being borne upon a rock; in haste, I unloosed the rope, while they were in dismay. The storm separated us from them with the boat in a direction to the right. And so, tossed about by winds and waves, in a multitude of ways, we, wretched creatures, during the livelong night * * * * * * * half dead, the wind this day has scarce borne us to the shore.

TRACHALIO
I understand; thus is Neptune wont to do; he is a very dainty Ædile; if any wares are bad, over he throws them all.

AMPELISCA
Woe to your head and life!

TRACHALIO
To your own, my dear Ampelisca. I was sure that the Procurer would do that which he has done; I often said so. It were better I should let my hair grow, and set up for a soothsayer.

AMPELISCA
Did you not take care then, you and your master, that he shouldn't go away, when you knew this?

TRACHALIO
What could he do?

AMPELISCA
If he was in love, do you ask what he could do? Both night and day he should have kept watch; he should have been always on his guard. But, by my troth, he has done like many others; thus finely has Plesidippus taken care of her.

TRACHALIO
For what reason do you say that?

AMPELISCA
The thing is evident.

TEACH.
Don't you know this? Even he who goes to the bath to bathe, while there he carefully keeps an eye upon his garments, still they are stolen; inasmuch as some one of those that he is watching is a rogue; the thief easily marks him for whom he's upon the watch; the keeper knows not which one is the thief. But bring me to her; where is she?

AMPELISCA
Well then, go here into the Temple of Venus; you'll find her sitting there, and in tears.

TRACHALIO
How disagreable is that to me already. But why is she weeping?

AMPELISCA
I'll tell you; she's afflicting herself in mind for this; because the Procurer took away a casket from her which she had, and in which she kept that by which she might be enabled to recognize her parents; she fears that this has been lost.

TRACHALIO
Where was that little casket, pray?

AMPELISCA
There, on board the ship; he himself locked it up in his wallet, that there mightn't be the means by which she might recognize her parents.

TRACHALIO
O scandalous deed! to require her to be a slave, who ought to be a free woman.

AMPELISCA
Therefore she now laments that it has gone to the bottom along with the ship. There, too, was all the gold and silver of the Procurer.

TRACHALIO
Some one, I trust, has dived and brought it up.

AMPELISCA
For this reason is she sad and disconsolate, that she has met with the loss of them.

TRACHALIO
Then have I the greater occasion to do this, to go in and console her, that she mayn't thus distress herself in mind. For I know that many a lucky thing has happened to many a one beyond their hopes.

AMPELISCA
But I know too that hope has deceived many who have hoped.

TRACHALIO
Therefore a patient mind is the best remedy for affliction. I'll go in, unless you wish for anything. *Goes into the Temple.*

AMP. GO.
To herself. I'll do that which the Priestess requested me, and I'll ask for some water here at the neighbour's; for she said that if I asked for it in her name, they would give it directly. And I do think that I never saw a more worthy old lady, one to whom I should think that it is more befitting for Gods and men to show kindness. How courteously,

how heartily, how kindly, how, without the least difficulty, she received us into her home, trembling, in want, drenched, shipwrecked, half dead; not otherwise, in fact, than if we had been her own offspring. How kindly did she herself, just now, tucking up her garments, make the water warm for us to bathe. Now, that I mayn't keep her waiting, I'll fetch some water from the place where she requested me. *Knocking at the door of DÆMONES.* Hallo, there, is there any one in the cottage? is any one going to open this door? Will any one come out?

Enter SCEPARNIO, from the cottage of DÆMONES.

SCEPARNIO
Who is it so furiously making an attack upon our door?

AMPELISCA
It's I.

SCEPARNIO
Well now, what good news is there? *Aside.* Dear me, a lass of comely appearance, i' troth.

AMPELISCA
Greeting to you, young man.

SCEPARNIO
And many greetings to you, young woman.

AMPELISCA
I'm come to you ——

SCEPARNIO
I'll receive you with a welcome, if you come in the evening, by-and-by, just such as I could like; for just now I've no means to receive you, a damsel, thus early in the morning * * * But what have you to say, my smiling, pretty one. *Chucks her under the chin.*

AMPELISCA

Oh, you're handling me too familiarly. *Moves away.*

SCEPARNIO
O ye immortal Gods! she's the very image of Venus. What joyousness there is in her eyes, and, only do see, what a skin 'tis of the vulture's tint, — rather, the eagle's, indeed, I meant to say. Her breasts, too, how beautiful; and then what expression on her lips! *Takes hold of her.*

AMPELISCA
struggling . I'm no common commodity for the whole township; can't you keep your hands off me?

SCEPARNIO
patting her . Won't you let me touch you, gentle one, in this manner, gently and lovingly? * * * * * * * * *

AMPELISCA
When I have leisure, then I'll be giving my attention to toying and dalliance to please you; for the present, prithee, do either say me "Yes" or "No" to the matter for which I was sent hither.

SCEPARNIO
What now is it that you wish?

AMPELISCA
pointing to her pitcher . To a shrewd person, my equipment would give indications of what it is I want.

SCEPARNIO
To a shrewd woman, this equipment, too, of mine, would give indication of what it is I want.

AMPELISCA
pointing to the Temple . The Priestess there of Venus, requested me to fetch some water from your house here. ...

SCEPARNIO

But I'm a lordly sort of person; unless you entreat me, you shan't have a drop. We dug this well with danger to ourselves, and with tools of iron. Not a drop can be got out of me except by means of plenty of blandishments.

AMPELISCA
Prithee, why do you make so much fuss about the water — a thing that even enemy affords to enemy?

SCEPARNIO
Why do you make so much fuss about granting a favour to me, that citizen grants to citizen?

AMPELISCA
On the contrary, my sweet one, I'll even do everything for you that you wish.

SCEPARNIO
O charming! I am favoured; she's now calling me her sweet one. The water shall be given you, so that you mayn't be coaxing me in vain. Give me the pitcher.

AMPELISCA
Take it *gives it to him* : make haste and bring it out, there's a dear.

SCEPARNIO
Stay a moment; I'll be here this instant, my sweet one. *Goes into the cottage.* * * * * * * * * * *

AMPELISCA
What shall I say to the Priestess for having delayed here so long a time? * * * * * * * How, even still, in my wretchedness do I tremble, when with my eyes I look upon the sea. *She looks towards the shore.* But what, to my sorrow, do I see afar upon the shore? My master, the Procurer, and his Sicilian guest. both of whom wretched I supposed to have perished in the deep. Still does thus much more of evil survive for us than we had imagined. But why do I delay to run off into the Temple, and to tell Palæstra this, that we may take refuge at

the altar before this scoundrel of a Procurer can come hither and seize us here? I'll betake myself away from this spot; for the necessity suddenly arises for me to do so. *Runs into the Temple.*

Enter SCEPARNIO, from the cottage.

SCEPARNIO
to himself . O ye immortal Gods, I never did imagine that there was so great delight in water; how heartily I did draw this. Thewell seemed much less deep than formerly. How entirely without exertion did I draw this up. With all deference to myself, am I not a very silly fellow,in having only to-day made a commencement of being in love? *Turning slowly round, he holds out the pitcher.* Here's the water for you, my pretty one; here now, I would have you carry it with as much pleasure as I carry it, that you may please me. *Stares around him.* But where are you, my tit-bit? Do take this water, please; where are you? *Again looks about.* I' troth, she's in love with me, as I fancy; the roguish one's playing bo- peep. Where are you? Are you going now to take this pitcher? Where are you, I say? You've carried the joke far enough. Really, do be serious at last. Once more, are you going to take this pitcher? Where in the world are you? *Looks about.* I' troth, I don't see her anywhere, for my part; she's making fun of me. I' faith, I shall now set down this pitcher in the middle of the road. But yet, suppose any person should carry away from here this sacred pitcher of Venus, he would be causing me some trouble. I' faith, I'm afraid that this woman's laying a trap for me, that I may be caught with the sacred pitcher of Venus. In such case, with very good reason, the magistrate will be letting me die in prison, if any one shall see me holding this. For it's marked with the name; itself tells its own tale, whose property it is. Troth now, I'll call that Priestess here out of doors, that she may take this pitcher. I'll go there to the door. *He knocks.* Hallo there! Ptolemocratia. *Calling aloud.* Take this pitcher of yours, please; some young woman, I don't know who, brought it here to me. *A pause.* It must then be carried in-doors by me. I've found myself a job, if, in fact, of my own accord, water is to be carried by me for these people as well. *Goes into the Temple with the pitcher.*

Enter LABRAX, dripping wet, followed by CHARMIDES, at a distance, in the same plight.

LABRAX
grumbling to himself . The person that chooses himself to be wretched and a beggar, let him trust himself and his life to Neptune. For if any one has any dealings at all with him, he sends him back home equipped in this guise. *Surveying himself.* By my troth, Liberty, you were a clever one, who were never willing to put even a foot, i' faith, on board ship with me. But *looking round* where's this guest of mine that has proved my ruin? Oh, see, here he comes.

CHARMIDES
Where the plague are you hurrying to, Labrax? For really I cannot follow you so fast.

LABRAX
I only wish that you had perished by direful tornments in Sicily before I had looked upon you with my eyes, you on whose account this misfortune has befallen me.

CHARMIDES
I only wish that on the day on which you admitted me into your house, I had laid me down in a prison sooner. I pray the immortal Gods, that so long as you live, you may have all your guests just like your own self.

LABRAX
In your person I admitted misfortune into my house. What business had I to listen to a rogue like you, or what to depart hence? Or why to go on board ship, where I have lost even more wealth than I was possessor of?

CHARMIDES
Troth, I'm far from being surprised if your ship has been wrecked, which was carrying yourself, a villain, and your property villanously acquired.

LABRAX
You've utterly ruined me with your wheedling speeches.

CHARMIDES
A more accursed dinner of yours have I been dining upon than the ones that were set before Thyestes and Tereus.

LABRAX
I'm dying; I'm sick at heart. Prithee, do hold up my head.

CHARMIDES
By my troth, I could very much wish that you would vomit up your lungs.

LABRAX
Alas! Palæstra and Ampelisca, where are you now?

CHARMIDES
Supplying food for the fishes at the bottom, I suppose.

LABRAX
You have brought beggary upon me by your means, while I was listening to your bragging lies.

CHARMIDES
You have reason deservedly to give me many hearty thanks, who from an insipid morsel by my agency have made you salt.

LABRAX
Nay, but do you get out from me to extreme and utter perdition.

CHARMIDES
You be off; I was just going to do that very thing.

LABRAX
Alas! what mortal being is there living more wretched than I?

CHARMIDES

I am by very far much more wretched, Labrax, than yourself.

LABRAX
How so?

CHARMIDES
Because I am not deserving of it, whereas you are deserving.

LABRAX
O bulrush, bulrush, I do praise your lot, who always maintain your credit for dryness.

CHARMIDES
his teeth chattering . For my part, I'm exercising myself for a skirmishing fight, for, from my shivering, I utter all my words in piecemeal flashes.

LABRAX
By my troth, Neptune, you are a purveyor of chilly baths; since I got away from you with my clothes, I've been freezing. No hot liquor-shop at all for sure does he provide; so salt and cold the potions that he prepares.

CHARMIDES
How lucky are the blacksmiths who are always sitting among hot coals; they are always warm.

LABRAX
I only wish that I were now enjoying the lot of the duck, so as, although I had just come from out of the water, still to be dry.

CHARMIDES
What if I some way or other let myself out at the games for a hobgoblin?

LABRAX
For what reason?

CHARMIDES
Because, i' faith, I'm chattering aloud with my teeth. But I'm of opinion that, with very good reason, I've had this ducking.

LABRAX
How so?

CHARMIDES
Why, haven't I ventured to go on board ship with yourself, who have been stirring up the ocean for me from the very bottom?

LABRAX
I listened to you when advising me; you assured me that there in Sicily was very great profit from courtesans; there, you used to say, I should be able to amass wealth.

CHARMIDES
Did you expect, then, you unclean beast, that you were going to gobble up the whole island of Sicily?

LABRAX
What whale, I wonder, has gobbled up my wallet where all my gold and silver was packed up?

CHARMIDES
That same one, I suppose, that has swallowed my purse, which was full of silver in my travelling-bag.

LABRAX
Alas! I'm reduced even to this one poor tunic *stretching it out* and to this poor shabby cloak; I'm done for to all intents.

CHARMIDES
Then you may even go into partnership with me; we have got equal shares.

LABRAX
If at least my damsels had been saved, there would have been some

hope. Now, if the young man Plesidippus should be seeing me, from whom I received the earnest for Palæstra, he'll then be causing me some trouble in consequence. *He begins to cry.*

CHARMIDES
Why cry, you fool? Really, by my troth, so long as your tongue shall exist, you have abundance with which to make payment to everybody.

Enter SCEPARNIO, from the Temple.

SCEPARNIO
to himself, aloud . What to-do is this, I'd like to know, that two young women here in the Temple, in tears, are holding in their embrace the statue of Venus, dreading I know not what in their wretchedness? But they say that this last night they have been tossed about, and to-day cast on shore from the waves.

LABRAX
overhearing . Troth now, young man, prithee, where are these young women that you are talking of?

SCEPARNIO
Here *pointing* in the Temple of Venus.

LABRAX
How many are there?

SCEPARNIO
Just as many as you and I make.

LABRAX
Surely, they are mine.

SCEPARNIO
Surely, I know nothing about that.

LABRAX

Of what appearance are they?

SCEPARNIO
Good-looking; I could even fall in love with either of them, if I were well liquored.

LABRAX
Surely, they are the damsels.

SCEPARNIO
Surely, you are a nuisance; be off, go in and see, if you like.

LABRAX
These must be my wenches in here, my dear Charmides.

CHARMIDES
Jupiter confound you, both if they are and still if they are not.

LABRAX
I'll straightway burst into this Temple of Venus here.

CHARMIDES
Into the bottomless pit, I would rather. *LABRAX rushes into the Temple, and shuts the door.* Prithee, stranger, show me some spot where I may go to sleep.

SCEPARNIO
Go to sleep there, wherever you please *points to the ground* ; no one hinders, it's free to the public.

CHARMIDES
pointing to his clothes . But do you see me, in what wet clothes I'm dressed? Do take me under shelter; lend me some dry clothes, while my own are drying; on some occasion I'll return you the favour.

SCEPARNIO
See, here's my outer coat, which alone is dry; that, if you like, I'll lend you. *Takes it off and holds it out to him.* In that same I'm wont

to be clothed, by that same protected, when it rains. Do you give me those clothes of yours; I'll soon have them dried.

CHARMIDES
How now, are you afraid that, as I've been washed bare last night at sea, I mayn't be made bare again here upon shore?

SCEPARNIO
Wash you bare, or anoint you well, I don't care one fig. I shall never entrust anything to you unless upon a pledge being taken. Do you either sweat away or perish with cold, be you either sick or well. I'll put up with no stranger-guest in my house; I've had disagreements enough. *Puts on his coat again, and goes into the house of DÆMONES.*

CHARMIDES
What, are you off? *A pause.* He's a trafficker in slaves for money; whoever he is, he has no bowels of compassion. But why in my wretchedness am I standing here, soaking? Why don't I rather go away from here into the Temple of Venus, that I may sleep off this debauch which I got with drinking last night against the bent of my inclination? Neptune has been drenching us with salt water as though we were G-reek wines, and so he hoped that our stomachs might be vomited up with his salt draughts. What need of words? If he had persisted in inviting us a little longer, we should have gone fast asleep there; as it is, hardly alive has he sent us off home. Now I'll go see the Procurer, my boon companion, what he's doing within. *Goes into the Temple.*

ACT III.

Enter DÆMONES, from his house.

DÆM.
to himnself . In wondrous ways do the Gods make sport of men, in wondrous fashions do they send dreams in sleep. Not the sleeping, even, do they allow to rest. As, for example, I, this last night which has gone by, dreamed a wonderful and a curious dream. A she-ape seemed to be endeavouring to climb up to a swallow's nest; and she was not able thence to take them out. After that, the ape seemed to come to me to beg me to lend a ladder to her. I in these terms gave answer to the ape, that swallows are the descendants of Philomela and of Progne. I expostulated with her, that she might not hurt those of my country. But then she began to be much more violent, and seemed gratuitously to be threatening me with vengeance. She summoned me to a court of justice. Then, in my anger, I seemed to seize hold of the ape by the middle, in what fashion I know not; and I fastened up with chains this most worthless beast. Now to what purpose I shall say that this dream tends, never have I this day been able to come to any conclusion. *A loud noise is heard in the Temple.* But what's this noise that arises in this Temple of Venus, my neighbour? My mind's in wonder about it.

Enter TRACHALIO, in haste, from the Temple.

TRACHALIO
aloud . O citizens of Cyrene, I implore your aid, countrymen, you who are near neighbours to these spots, bring aid to helplessness, and utterly crush a most vile attempt. Inflict vengeance, that the power of the wicked, who wish themselves to be distinguished by crimes, may not be stronger than of the guiltless. Make an example for the shameless man, give its reward to modest virtue; cause that one may be allowed to live here rather under the control of the laws than of brute force. Hasten hither into the Temple of Venus; again do I implore your aid, you who are here at hand and who hear my cries.

Bring assistance to those who, after the recognized usage, have entrusted their lives to Venus and to the Priestess of Venus, under their protection. Wring ye the neck of iniquity before it reaches yourselves.

DÆM.
What's all this to-do?

TRACHALIO
embracing his knees . By these knees of yours, I do entreat you, old gentleman, whoever you are ——

DÆM.
Nay, but do you let go my knees, then, and tell me why it is that you are making a noise?

TRACHALIO
I do beg and entreat you, that if you hope this year that you will have abundance of laserwort and silphium, and that that export will arrive at Capua safe and sound, and that you may ever enjoy freedom from diseased eyes ——

DÆM.
Are you in your senses?

TRACHALIO
—— Or whether you trust that you will have plenty of juice of silphium, that you will not hesitate to give me the aid which I shall entreat of you, aged sir.

DÆM.
And I, by your legs, and ancles, and back, do entreat you that, if you hope that you will have a crop of elm-twigs, and that a fruitful harvest of beatings will this year be your lot, you will tell me what's the matter here, by reason of which you are making this uproar.

TRACHALIO
Why do you choose to speak me ill? For my part, I wished you

everything that's good.

DÆM.
And for my part, I'm speaking you well, in praying that things which you deserve may befall you.

TRACHALIO
Prithee, do prevent this.

DÆM.
What's the matter, then?

TRACHALIO
pointing to the Temple . Two innocent women are inside here, in need of your aid, on whom, against law and justice, an injury has been, is being, glaringly committed here in the Temple of Venus. Besides, the Priestess of Venus is being disgracefully insulted.

DÆM.
What person is there of effrontery so great as to dare to injure the Priestess? But these women, who are they? Or what injury is being done to them?

TRACHALIO
If you give me your attention, I'll tell you. They have clung to the statue of Venus; a most audacious fellow is now trying to tear them away. They ought, by rights, both of them to be free.

DÆM.
What fellow is it that so lightly holds the Gods? In a few words tell me.

TRACHALIO
One most full of fraud, villany, parricide, and perjury; a lawbreaker, an immodest, unclean, most shameless fellow; to sum up all in one word, he is a Procurer; why need I say more about him?

DÆM.

Troth now, you tell of a man that ought to be handed over to retribution.

TRACHALIO
A villain, to seize the Priestess by the throat.

DÆM.
By my troth, but he has done it at his own great peril. *Calls aloud at his door.* Come you out of doors here, Turbalio and Sparax; where are you?

TRACHALIO
Prithee, do go in, and hasten to their rescue.

DÆM.
impatiently . And am I to call for them once more? *from the cottage.*

DÆM.
Follow me this way.

TRACHALIO
Come on now this instant, bid them tear his eyes out, just in the way that cooks do cuttle-fish.

DÆM.
Drag the fellow out here by his legs, just like a slaughtered pig. *DÆMONES and his SERVANTS go into the Temple.*

TRACHALIO
listening at the door . I hear a scuffling; the Procurer, I guess, is being belaboured with their fists; I'd very much like them to knock the teeth out of the jaws of the most villanous fellow. But see, here are the women themselves coming out of the Temple in consternation.

Enter PALÆSTRA and AMPELISCA, in haste, from the Temple, with dishevelled locks.

PALAESTRA
Now is that time arrived when destitution of all resources and aid, succour and defence, overtakes us. Neither hope nor means is there to bring us aid, nor know we in what direction we should commence to proceed. In exceeding terror now are we both, in this our wretchedness. Such cruelty and such outrage have been committed towards us just now in-doors here by our master, who, in his villany, pushed down the old lady, the Priestess, headlong, and struck her in a very disgraceful manner, and with his violence tore us away from the inner side of the statue. But as our lot and fortunes are now showing themselves, ‘twere best to die, nor in our miseries is there anything better than death.

TRACHALIO
behind . What’s this? Whose words are those? Why do I delay to console them? *Aloud.* Harkye, Palæstra, Ampelisca, harkye!

PALAESTRA
Prithee, who is it that calls us?

AMPELISCA
Who is it that calls me by name?

TRACHALIO
If you turn round and look, you’ll know.

PALAESTRA
turning round . O hope of my safety!

TRACHALIO
Be silent and of good courage; trust me.

PALAESTRA
If only it can be so, let not violence overwhelm us.

TRACHALIO
What violence?

PALAESTRA
That same which is driving me to commit violence on myself.

TRACHALIO
Oh, do leave off; you are very silly.

PALAESTRA
Then do you leave off at once your consoling me in my misery with words.

AMPELISCA
Unless you afford us protection in reality, Trachalio, it's all over with us.

PALAESTRA
I'm resolved to die sooner than suffer this Procurer to get me in his power. But still I am of woman's heart; when, in my misery, death comes into my mind, fear takes possession of my limbs.

TRACHALIO
By my troth, although this is a bitter affliction, do have a good heart.

PALAESTRA
Why where, pray, is a good heart to be found for me?

TRACHALIO
Don't you fear, I tell you; sit you down here by the altar. *Points to it.*

AMPELISCA
What can this altar possibly avail us more than the statue here within the Temple of Venus, from which just now, embracing it, in our wretchedness, we were torn by force?

TRACHALIO
Only you be seated here; then I'll protect you in this spot. This altar you possess as though your bulwarks; these your fortifications; from this spot will I defend you. With the aid of Venus, I'll march against the wickedness of the Procurer.

PALAESTRA
We follow your instructions *they advance to the altar and kneel* ; and genial Venus, we both of us, in tears, implore thee, embracing this thy altar, bending upon our knees, that thou wilt receive us into thy guardianship, and be our protector; that thou wilt punish those wretches who have set at nought thy Temple, and that thou wilt suffer us to occupy this thy altar with thy permission, we who last night were by the might of Neptune cast away; hold us not in scorn, and do not for that reason impute it to us as a fault, if there is anything that thou shouldst think is not so well attended to by us as it ought to have been.

TRACHALIO
I think they ask what's just; it ought, Venus, by thee to be granted. Thou oughtst to pardon them; 'tis terror forces them to do this. They say that thou wast born from a shell; take thou care that thou dost not despise the shells of these. But see, most opportunely the old gentleman is coming out, both my protector and your own. *He goes to the altar.*

Enter DÆMONES, from the Temple, with his two SERVANTS dragging out LABRAX.

DÆM.
Come out of the Temple, you most sacrilegious of men, as many as have ever been born. Do you go *calling to the WOMEN* and sit by the altar. *Not seeing them near the door.* But where are they?

TRACHALIO
Look round here.

DÆM.
looking round . Very good; I wanted that. Now bid him come this way. *To LABRAX.* Are you attempting here among us to commit a violation of the laws against the Deities? *To the SERVANTS, who obey with alacrity.* Punch his face with your fists.

LABRAX

I'm suffering these indignities at your own cost.

DÆM.
Why, the insolent fellow's threatening even.

LABRAX
I've been robbed of my rights; you are robbing me of my female slaves against my will.

TRACHALIO
Do you then find some wealthy man of the Senate of Cyrene as judge, whether these women ought to be yours, or whether they oughtn't to be free, or whether it isn't right that you should be clapped into prison, and there spend your life, until you have worn the whole gaol out with your feet.

LABRAX
I wasn't prepared to prophesy for this day that I should be talking with a hang-gallows like yourself. *Turning to DÆMONES.* You do I summon to judgment.

DÆM.
pointing to TRACHALIO . In the first place, try it with him who knows you.

LABRAX
to DÆMONES . My suit is with yourself.

TRACHALIO
But it must be with myself. *Pointing to the WOMEN.* Are these your female slaves?

LABRAX
They are.

TRACL.
Just come then, touch either of them with your little finger only.

LABRAX
What if I do touch them?

TRACHALIO
That very instant, upon my faith, I'll make a hand-ball of you, and while you're in the air I'll belabour you with my fists, you most perjured villain.

LABRAX
Am I not to be allowed to take away my female slaves from the altar of Venus?

DÆM.
You may not; such is the law with us.

LABRAX
I've no concern with your laws; for my part, I shall at once carry them both away from here. If you are in love with them, old gentleman *holding out his hand* , you must down here with the ready cash.

DÆM.
But these women have proved pleasing to Venus.

LABRAX
She may have them, if she pays the money.

DÆM.
A Goddess, pay you money? Now then, that you may understand my determination, only do you commence in mere joke to offer them the very slightest violence; I'll send you away from here with such a dressing, that you won't know your own self. You, therefore *turning to his SERVANTS* , when I give you the signal, if you don't beat his eyes out of his head, I'll trim you round about with rods just like beds of myrtle with bulrushes.

LABRAX
You are treating me with violence.

TRACHALIO
What, do you even upbraid us with violence, you flagrant specimen of flagitiousness?

LABRAX
You, you thrice-dotted villain, do you dare to speak abusively to me?

TRACHALIO
I am a thrice-dotted villain; I confess it; you are a strictly honorable man; ought these women a bit the less to be free?

LABRAX
What — free?

TRACHALIO
Aye, and your mistresses, too, i' faith, and from genuine Greece; for one of them was born at Athens of free-born parents.

DÆM.
What is it I hear from you?

TRACHALIO
That she *pointing to PALÆSTRA* was born at Athens, a free-born woman.

DÆM.
to TRACHALIO . Prithee is she a countrywoman of mine?

TRACHALIO
Are you not a Cyrenian?

DÆM.
No; born at Athens in Attica, bred and educated there.

TRACHALIO
Prithee, aged sir, do protect your countrywomen.

DÆM.

aside . O daughter, when I look on her, separated from me you remind me of my miseries: *aloud* she who was lost by me when three years old; now, if she is living, she's just about as tall, I'm sure, as she. *Pointing to PALÆSTRA.*

LABRAX
I paid the money down for these two, to their owners, of whatever country they were. What matters it to me whether they were born at Athens or at Thebes, so long as they are rightfully in servitude as my slaves?

TRACHALIO
it so, you impudent fellow? What, are you, a cat prowling after maidens, to be keeping children here kidnapped from their parents and destroying them in your disgraceful calling? But as for this other one, I really don't know what her country is; I only know that she's more deserving than yourself, you most abominable rascal.

LABRAX
Are these women your property?

TRACHALIO
Come to the trial, then, which of the two according to his back is the more truthful; if you don't bear more compliments upon your back than any ship of war has nails, then I'm the greatest of liars. Afterwards, do you examine mine, when I've examined yours; if it shall not prove to be so untouched, that any leather flask maker will say that it is a hide most capital and most sound for the purposes of his business, what reason is there why I shouldn't mangle you with stripes, even till you have your belly full? Why do you stare at them? If you touch them I'll tear your eyes out.

LABRAX
Yet notwithstanding, although you forbid me to do so, I'll at once carry them off both together with me.

DÆM.
What will you do?

LABRAX
I'll bring Vulcan; he is an enemy to Venus. *Goes towards DÆMONES' cottage.*

TRACHALIO
Whither is he going?

LABRAX
calling at the door . Hallo! Is there anybody here? Hallo! I say.

DÆM.
If you touch the door, that very instant, upon my faith, you shall get a harvest upon your face with fists for your pitchforks.

SERV.
We keep no fire, we live upon dried figs.

DÆM.
I'll find the fire, if only I have the opportunity of kindling it upon your head.

LABRAX
Faith, I'll go somewhere to look for some fire.

DÆM.
What, when you've found it?

LABRAX
I'll be making a great fire here.

DÆM.
What, to be burning a mortuary sacrifice for yourself?

LABRAX
No, but I'll burn both of these alive here upon the altar.

DÆM.
I'd like that. For, by my troth, I'll forthwith seize you by the head

and throw you into the fire, and, half-roasted, I'll throw you out as food for the great birds. *Aside.* When I come to a consideration of it with myself, this is that ape, that wanted to take away those swallows from the nest against my will, as I was dreaming in my sleep.

TPACH.
Aged sir, do you know what I request of you? That you will protect these females and defend them from violence, until I fetch my master.

DÆM.
Go look for your master, and fetch him here.

TRACHALIO
But don't let him ——

DÆM.
At his own extreme peril, if he touches them, or if he attempts to do so.

TRACHALIO
Take care.

DÆM.
Due care is taken; do you be off.

TRACHALIO
And watch him too, that he doesn't go away anywhere. For we have promised either to give the executioner a great talent, or else to produce this fellow this very day.

DÆM.
Do you only be off. I'll not let him get away, while you are absent.

TRACHALIO
I'll be back here soon. *(Exit TRACHALIO.)*

DÆMONES, LABRAX, PALÆSTRA, AMPELISCA, and SERVANTS.

DÆM.
to LABRAX, who is struggling with the SERVANTS . Which, you Procurer, had you rather do, be quiet with a thrashing, or e'en as it is, without the thrashing, if you had the choice?

LABRAX
Old fellow, I don't care a straw for what you say. My own women, in fact, I shall drag away this instant from the altar by the hair, in spite of yourself, and Venus, and supreme Jove.

DÆM.
Just touch them.

LABRAX
going towards them I' troth, I surely will touch them.

DÆM.
Just come then; only approach this way.

LABRAX
Only bid both those fellows, then, to move away from there.

DÆM.
On the contrary, they shall move towards you.

LABRAX
I' faith, for my own part, I don't think so.

DÆM.
If they do move nearer to you, what will you do?

LABRAX
I'll retire. But, old fellow, if ever I catch you in the city, never again, upon my faith, shall any one call me a Procurer, if I don't give you some most disagreable sport.

DÆM.
Do what you threaten. But now, in the meantime, if you do touch

them, a heavy punishment shall be inflicted on you.

LABRAX
How heavy, in fact?

DÆM.
Just as much as is sufficient for a Procurer.

LABRAX
These threats of yours I don't value one straw; I certainly shall seize them both this instant without your leave.

DÆM.
Just touch them.

LABRAX
By my troth, I surely will touch them.

DÆM.
You will touch them, but do you know with what result? Go then, Turbalio, with all haste, and bring hither from out of the house two cudgels.

LABRAX
Cudgels?

DÆM.
Aye, good ones; make haste speedily. *TURBALIO goes in.* I'll let you have a reception this day in proper style, as you are deserving of.

LABRAX
aside . Alas! cursedly unfortunate. I lost my headpiece in the ship; it would now have been handy for me, if it had been saved. *To DÆMONES.* May I at least address these women?

DÆM.
You may not * * * * * *TURBALIO enters bringing two cudgels.* Well now, by my faith, look, the cudgel-man is coming very opportunely

here.

LABRAX
aside . By my troth, this surely is a tingling for my ears.

DÆM.
Come, Sparax, do you take this other cudgel. *Giving him one.* Come, take your stand, one on one side, the other on one other. Take your stations both of you. *They stand with lifted cudgels on each side of he altar.* Just so. Now then attend to me: if, i' faith, that fellow there should this day touch these women with his finger against their inclination, if you don't give him a reception with these cudgels even to that degree that he shan't know which way he is to get home, you are undone, both of you. If he shall call for any one, do you make answer to this fellow in their stead. But if he himself shall attempt to get away from here, that instant, as hard a you can, lay on to his legs with your sticks.

LABRAX
Are they not even to allow me to go away from here?

DÆM.
I've said sufficient. And when that servant comes here with his master, he that has gone to fetch his master, do you at once go home. Attend to this with great diligence, will you. *DÆMONES goes into his house.*

LABRAX
O rare, by my troth, the Temple here is surely changed all of a sudden; this is now the Temple of Hercules which was that of Venus before; in such fashion has the old fellow planted two statues here with clubs. I' faith, I don't know now whither in the world I shall fly from here; so greatly are they both raging now against me, both land and sea. Palæstra!

SERV.
What do you want?

LABRAX
Away with you, there is a misunderstanding between us; that, indeed, is not my Palæstra that answers. Harkye, Ampelisca.

SERV.
Beware of a mishap, will you.

LABRAX
aside . So far as they can, the worthless fellows advise me rightly enough. *Aloud.* But, harkye, I ask you, whether it is any harm to you for me to come nearer to these women?

SERV.
Why none at all to ourselves.

LABRAX
Will there be any harm to myself?

SERV.
None at all, if you only take care.

LABRAX
What is it that I'm to take care against?

SERV.
Why, look you, against a heavy mishap.

LABRAX
Troth now, prithee, do let me approach them.

SERV.
Approach them, if you like.

LABRAX
I' faith, obligingly done; I return you thanks, I'll go nearer to them. *Approaches them.*

SERV.

Do you stand there on the spot, where you are. *Drags him to his place, with the cudgel over his head.*

LABRAX
aside . By my faith, I've come scurvily off in many ways. Still, I'm resolved to get the better of them this day by constantly besieging them.

Enter PLESIDIPPUS and TRACHALIO, at a distance, on the other side of the stage.

PLESIDIPPUS
And did the Procurer attempt by force and violence to drag my mistress away from the altar of Venus?

TRACHALIO
Even so.

PLESIDIPPUS
Why didn't you kill him on the instant?

TRACHALIO
I hadn't a sword.

PLESIDIPPUS
You should have taken either a stick or a stone.

TRACHALIO
What! ought I to have pelted this most villanous fellow with stones like a dog? * * * * * * * * *

LABRAX
aside, on seeing them . By my troth, but I'm undone now; see, here's Plesidippus; he'll be sweeping me away altogether this moment with the dust.

PLESIDIPPUS
Were the damsels sitting on the altar even then when you set out to

come to me?

TRACHALIO
Yes, and now they are sitting in the same place.

PLESIDIPPUS
Who is now protecting them there?

TRACHALIO
Some old gentleman, I don't know who, a neighbour of the Temple of Venus — he gave very kind assistance; he is now protecting them with his servants — I committed them to his charge.

PLESIDIPPUS
Lead me straight to the Procurer. Where is this fellow? *They go towards LABRAX.*

LABRAX
Health to you.

PLESIDIPPUS
I want none of your healths. Make your choice quickly, whether you lad rather be seized by your throat wrenched, or be dragged along; choose whichever you please, while you may.

LABRAX
I wish for neither.

PLESIDIPPUS
Be off then, Trachalio, with all speed to the sea-shore; bid those persons that I brought with me to hand over this rascal to the executioner, to come from the harbour to the city to meet me; afterwards return hither and keep guard here. I'll now drag this scoundrelly outcast to justice. *(Exit TRACHALIO. Pleusicles addresses LABRAX.)* . Come, proceed to a court of justice.

LABRAX
In what have I offended?

PLESIDIPPUS
Do you ask? Didn't you receive an earnest of me for this woman *pointing to PALÆSTRA* , and carry her off from here?

LABRAX
I didn't carry her off.

PLESIDIPPUS
Why do you deny it?

LABRAX
Troth now, because I put her on board ship; carry her off unfortunately, I couldn't. For my part, I told you that this day I would make my appearance at the Temple of Venus; have I swerved at all from that? Am I not there?

PLESIDIPPUS
Plead your cause in the court of justice; here a word is enough. Follow me. *They lay hold of him.*

LABRAX
calling aloud . I entreat you, my dear Charmides, do come to my rescue; I am being seized with my throat wrenched. *Enter CHARMIDES, from the Temple.*

CHARMIDES
looking about . Who calls my name?

LABRAX
Do you see me how I'm being seized?

CHARMIDES
I see, and view it with pleasure.

LABRAX
Don't you venture to assist me?

CHARMIDES

What person is seizing you?

LABRAX
Young Plesidippus.

CHARMIDES
What you've got, put up with; 'twere better for you, with a cheerful spirit, to slink to gaol; that has befallen you which many greatly wish for for themselves.

LABRAX
What's that?

CHARMIDES
To find for themselves that which they are seeking.

LABRAX
I entreat you, do follow me.

CHARMIDES
You try to persuade me, just like what you are: you are being taken off to gaol, for that reason is it you entreat me to follow you?

PLESIDIPPUS
to LABRAX . Do you still resist?

LABRAX
I'm undone.

PLESIDIPPUS
I trust that may prove the truth. You, my dear Palæstra and Ampelisca, do you remain here in the meanwhile, until I return hither.

SERV.
I would advise them rather to go to our house, until you return.

PLESIDIPPUS

I'm quite agreable; you act obligingly. *The SERVANTS open the door of the cottage, and PALÆSTRA and AMPELISCA go in.*

LABRAX
You are thieves to me.

SERV.
How, thieves?

PLESIDIPPUS
Lead him along. *The SERVANTS seize him.*

LABRAX
calling out . I pray and entreat you, Palæstra.

PLESIDIPPUS
Follow, you hang-dog.

LABRAX
Guest, Charmides!

CHARMIDES
I am no guest of yours; I repudiate your hospitality.

LABRAX
What, do you slight me in this fashion?

CHARMIDES
I do so; I've been drinking with you once already.

LABRAX
May the Deities confound you.

CHARMIDES
To that person of yours, say that. *PLESIDIPPUS leads LABRAX off, followed by the SERVANTS.* I do believe that men are transformed, each into a different beast. That Procurer, I guess, is transformed into a stock-dove; for, before long, his neck will be in the stocks. He'll to-

day be building his nest in the gaol. Still, however, I'll go, that I may be his advocate, — if by my aid he may possibly be sentenced any the sooner.

ACT IV.

Enter DÆMONES, from his cottage.

DÆM.
to himself. 'Twas rightly done, and it is a pleasure this day for me to have given aid to these young women; I have now found some dependants, and both of them of comely looks and youthful age. But my plaguy wife is watching me in all ways, lest I should be giving any hint to the young women. But I wonder what in the world my servant Gripus is about, who went last night to the sea to fish. Troth, he had done wiser if he had slept at home; for now he throws away both his pains and his nets, seeing what a storm there now is and was last night. I'll thoroughly cook upon my fingers what he has caught to-day; so violently do I see the ocean heaving. *A bell rings.* But my wife's calling me to breakfast; I'll return home. She'll now be filling my ears with her silly prating. *Goes into the cottage.*

Enter GRIPUS, dragging a net enclosing a wallet, by a rope.

GRIPUS
to himself . These thanks do I return to Neptune, my patron, who dwells in the salt retreats, the abode of fishes, inasmuch as he has despatched me finely laden on my return from his retreats, and from his Temples, laden with most abundant booty, with safety to my boat, which in the stormy sea made me master of a singular and rich haul. In a wondrous and incredible manner has this haul turned out prosperously for me, nor yet have I this day taken a single ounce weight of fish, but only that which I am here bringing with me in my net. For when I arose in the middle of the night, and without sloth, I preferred profit to sleep and rest; in the raging tempest, I determined to try how I might lighten the poverty of my master and my own servitude, not sparing of my own exertions. Most worthless is the man that is slothful, and most detestably do I hate that kind of men. It behoves him to be vigilant who wishes to do his duty in good time; for it befits him not to be waiting until his master arouses him to his

duties. For those who sleep on for the love of it, rest without profit to themselves and to their own cost. But now I, who have not been slothful, have found that for myself through which to be slothful if I should choose. *Points to the wallet.* This have I found in the sea to-day; whatever's in it, it's something heavy that's in it; I think it's gold that's in it. And not a single person is there my confidant in the matter. Now, Gripus, this opportunity has befallen you, that the Prætor might make you a free man from among the multitude. Now, thus shall I do, this is my determination; I'll come to my master cleverly and cunningly, little by little I'll promise money for my freedom, that I may be free. Now, when I shall be free, then, in fine, I'll provide me land and houses and slaves: I'll carry on merchandize with large ships: among the grandees I shall be considered a grandee. Afterwards, for the sake of pleasing myself, I'll build me a ship and I'll imitate Stratonicus, and I'll be carried about from town to town. When my greatness is far-spread, I shall fortify some great city: to that city I shall give the name of "Gripus," a memorial of my fame and exploits, and there I'll establish a mighty kingdom. I am resolving here in my mind to prepare for mighty matters. At present I'll hide this booty. But this grandee *pointing to himself* is about to breakfast upon vinegar and salt, without any good substantial meat. *Gathers up the net, and drags it after him.*

Enter TRACHALIO, in haste.

TRACHALIO
Hallo there! stop.

GRIPUS
Why should I stop?

TRACHALIO
While I coil up this rope for you that you are dragging.

GRIPUS
Now let it alone.

TRACHALIO

Troth, but I'll assist you. What's kindly done to worthy men, isn't thrown away.

GRIPUS

* * * * * There was a boisterous tempest yesterday; no fish have I, young man; don't you be supposing I have. Don't you see that I'm carrying my dripping net without the scaly race?

TRACHALIO
I' faith, I'm not wishing for fish so much as I am in need of your conversation.

GRIPUS
Then, whoever you are, you are worrying me to death with your annoyance.

TRACHALIO
takes hold of him . I'll not allow you to go away from here; stop.

GRIPUS
Take you care of a mishap, if you please; but why the plague are you dragging me back?

TRACHALIO
Listen.

GRIPUS
I won't listen.

TRACHALIO
But, upon my faith, you shall listen.

GRIPUS
Nay but, another time, tell me what you want.

TRACHALIO
Come now, it's worth your while at once to hear what I want to tell

you.

GRIPUS
Say on, whatever it is.

TRACHALIO
See whether any person is following near us. *Looks back.* GRIP. Why, what reason is there that it should matter to me?

TRACHALIO
So it is; but can you give me some good advice?

GRIPUS
What's the business? Only tell me.

TRACHALIO
I'll tell you; keep silence; if only you'll give me your word that you won't prove treacherous to me.

GRIPUS
I do give you my word; I'll be true to you, whoever you are.

TRACHALIO
Listen. I saw a person commit a theft; I knew the owner to whom that same property belonged. Afterwards I came myself to the thief, and I made him a proposal in these terms: "I know the person on whom that theft was committed; now if you are ready to give me half, I'll not make a discovery to the owner." He didn't even give me an answer. What is it fair should be given me out of it? Half, I trust you will say.

GRIPUS
Aye, even more; but unless he gives it you, I think it ought to be told to the owner.

TRACHALIO
I'll act on your advice. Now give me your attention; for it is to yourself all this relates.

GRIPUS
What has been done by me?

TRACHALIO
pointing at the wallet . I've known the person for a long time to whom that wallet belongs.

GRIPUS
What do you mean?

TRACHALIO
And in what manner it was lost.

GRIPUS
But I know in what manner it was found; and I know the person who found it, and who is now the owner. That, i' faith, is not a bit the more your matter than it is my own. I know the person to whom it now belongs; you, the person to whom it formerly belonged. This shall no individual get away from me; don't you be expecting to get it in a hurry.

TRACHALIO
If the owner comes, shan't he get it away?

GRIPUS
That you mayn't be mistaken, no born person is there that's owner of this but my own self — who took this in my own fishing.

TRACHALIO
Was it really so?

GRIPUS
Which fish in the sea will you say "is my own?" When I catch them, if indeed I do catch them, they are my own; as my own I keep them. They are not claimed as having a right to freedom nor does any person demand a share in them. In the market I sell them all openly as my own wares. Indeed, the sea is, surely, common to all persons.

TRACHALIO
I agree to that; prithee, then, why any the less is it proper that this wallet should be common to me? It was found in the sea.

GRIPUS
Assuredly you are an outrageously impudent fellow; for if this is justice which you are saying, then fishermen would be ruined. Inasmuch as, the moment that the fish were exposed upon the stalls, no one would buy them; every person would be demanding his own share of the fish for himself; he would be saying that they were caught in the sea that was common to all.

TRACHALIO
What do you say, you impudent fellow? Do you dare to compare a wallet with fish? Pray, does it appear to be the same thing?

GRIPUS
The matter doesn't lie in my power; when I've cast my hook and net into the sea, whatever has adhered I draw out. Whatever my net and hooks have got, that in especial is my own.

TRACHALIO
Nay but, i' faith, it is not; if, indeed, you've fished up any article that's made

GRIPUS
Philosopher, you.

TRACHALIO
But look now, you conjurer, did you ever see a fisherman who caught a wallet-fish, or exposed one for sale in the market? But, indeed, you shan't here be taking possession of all the profits that you choose; you expect, you dirty fellow, to be both a maker of wallets and a fisherman. Either you must show me a fish that is a wallet, or else you shall carry nothing off that wasn't produced in the sea and has no scales.

GRIPUS

What, did you never hear before to-day that a wallet was a fish?

TRACHALIO
Villain, there is no such fish.

GRIPUS
Yes, there certainly is; I, who am a fisherman, know it. But it is seldom caught; no fish more rarely comes near the land.

TRACHALIO
It's to no purpose; you hope that you can be cheating me, you rogue. Of what colour is it?

GRIPUS
looking at the wallet . Of this colour very few are caught: some are of a purple skin, there are great and black ones also.

TRACHALIO
I understand; by my troth, you'll be turning into a wallet-fish I fancy, if you don't take care; your skin will be purple, and then afterwards black.

GRIPUS
aside . What a villain this that I have met with to-day!

TRACHALIO
We are wasting words; the day wears apace. Consider, please, by whose arbitration do you wish us to proceed?

GRIPUS
By the arbitration of the wallet.

TRACHALIO
Really so, indeed? You are a fool.

GRIPUS
My respects to you, Mister Thales *Going.*

TRACHALIO
holding him . You shan't carry that off this day, unless you find a place of safe keeping for it, or an umpire, by whose arbitration this matter may be settled.

GRIPUS
Prithee, are you in your senses?

TRACHALIO
I'm mad, in need of hellebore.

GRIPUS
But I'm troubled with sprites; still I shan't let this go. *Hugs the wallet.*

TRACHALIO
Only add a single word more, that instant I'll drive my fists smash into your brains. This instant on this spot, just as a new napkin is wont to be wrung, I'll wring out of you whatever moisture there is, if you don't let this go. *Seizes the wallet.*

GRIPUS
Touch me; I'll dash you down on the ground just in such fashion as I'm in the habit of doing with a polypus fish. Would you like to fight? *Assumes a boxing attitude.*

TRACHALIO
What need is there? Nay, in preference, divide the booty.

GRIPUS
You can't get anything from here but harm to yourself, so don't expect it. I'm taking myself off.

TRACHALIO
But I'll turn aside your ship from that direction, that you mayn't be off anywhere — stop. *Stands in front of him, and holds the rope.*

GRIPUS

If you are the helmsman of this ship, I'll be the pilot. Let go of the rope now, you villain.

TRACHALIO
I will let go; do you let go of the wallet.

GRIPUS
I' faith, you shall never this day become a scrap the more wealthy from this.

TRACHALIO
You cannot convince me by repeatedly denying, unless either a part is given me, or it is referred to arbitration, or it is placed in safe keeping.

GRIPUS
What, that which I got out of the sea —— ?

TRACHALIO
But I spied it out from the shore.

GRIPUS
— With my own pains and labour, and net and boat.

TRACHALIO
If now the owner, whose property it is, were to come, how am I, who espied from afar that you had taken this, a bit the less the thief than yourself?

GRIPUS
None whatever. *Going.*

TRACHALIO
seizing the net . Stop, you whip-knave; just let me learn of you by what reasoning I am not the sharer, and yet the thief.

GRIPUS
I don't know; neither do I know these city laws of yours, only that I

affirm that this is mine. *Looks at the wallet.*

TRACHALIO
And I, too, say that it is mine.

GRIPUS
Stay now; I've discovered by what method you may be neither thief nor sharer.

TRACHALIO
By what method?

GRIPUS
Let me go away from here; you quietly go your own way, and don't you inform against me to any one, and I won't give anything to you. You hold your tongue; I'll be mum. This is the best and the fairest plan.

TRACE.
Well, what proposition do you venture to make?

GRIPUS
I've made it already; for you to go away, to let go of the rope, and not to be a nuisance to me.

TRACHALIO
Stop while I propose terms.

GRIPUS
I' faith, do, prithee, dispose of yourself forthwith.

TRACHALIO
Do you know any one in these parts?

GRIPUS
My own neighbours I must know.

TRACHALIO

Where do you live here?

GRIPUS
pointing . At a distance out away yonder, as far off as the farthest fields.

TRACHALIO
pointing to the cottage of DÆMONES . The person that lives in that cottage, should you like it to be decided by his arbitration?

GRIPUS
Let go of the rope for a moment while I step aside and consider.

TRACHALIO
Be it so. *Lets go of the rope.*

GRIPUS
aside . Capital, the thing's all right; the whole of this booty is my own. He's inviting me here inside of my own abode to my own master as umpire. By my troth, he never this day will award three obols away from his own servant. Assuredly, this fellow doesn't know what proposal he has been making. *To TRACHALIO.* I'll go to the arbitrator with you.

TRACHALIO
What then?

GRIPUS
Although I know for sure that this is my own lawful right, let that be done rather than I should now be fighting with you.

TRACHALIO
Now you satisfy me.

GRIPUS
Although you are driving me before an arbitrator whom I don't know, if he shall administer justice, although he is unknown, he is as good as known to me; if he doesn't, though known, he is the same as

though entirely unknown.

Enter DÆMONES, from his cottage, with PALÆSTRA and AMPELISCA, and SERVANTS.

DÆM.
to the WOMEN . Seriously, upon my faith, young women, although I wish what you desire, I'm afraid that on your account my wife will be turning me out of doors, who'll be saying that I've brought harlots here before her very eyes. Do you take refuge at the altar rather than I.

THE WOMEN.
We, wretched creatures, are undone. *They weep.*

DÆM.
I'll place you in safety; don't you fear. But why *turning to the SERVANTS* are you following me out of doors? Since I'm here, no one shall do them harm. Now then, be off, I say, in-doors, both of you, you guards from off guard. *They go in.*

GRIPUS
O master, save you.

DÆM.
Save you. How goes it?

TRACHALIO
pointing to GRIPUS . Is he your servant?

GRIPUS
I'm not ashamed to say yes.

TRACHALIO
I've nothing to do with you.

GRIPUS
Then get you gone hence, will you.

TRACHALIO
Prithee, do answer me, aged sir; is he your servant?

DÆM.
He is mine.

TRACHALIO
Oh then, that is very good, since he is yours. Again I salute you.

DÆM.
And I you. Are you he who, not long since, went away from here to fetch his master?

TRACHALIO
I am he.

DÆM.
What now is it that you want?

TRACHALIO
pointing to GRIPUS . This is your servant, you say?

DÆM.
He is mine.

TRACHALIO
That is very good, since he is yours.

DÆM.
What's the matter?

TRACHALIO
pointing to GRIPUS . That's a rascally fellow there.

DÆM.
What has the rascally fellow done to you?

TRACHALIO
I wish the ancles of that fellow were smashed.

DÆM.
What's the thing about which you are now disputing between yourselves?

TRACHALIO
I'll tell you.

GRIPUS
No, I'll tell you.

TRACHALIO
I fancy I'm to move the matter first.

GRIPUS
If indeed you were a decent person, you would be moving yourself off from here.

DÆM.
Gripus, give attention, and hold your tongue

GRIPUS
In order that that fellow may speak first?

DÆM.
Attend, Itell you. *To TRACHALIO.* Do you say on.

GRIPUS
Will you give the right of speaking to a stranger sooner than to your own servant?

TRACHALIO
O dear! how impossible it is for him to be kept quiet. As I was beginning to say, that Procurer, whom some little time since you turned out of the Temple of Venus — see *pointing at the wallet* , he has got his wallet.

GRIPUS
I haven't got it.

TRACHALIO
Do you deny that which I see with my own eyes?

GRIPUS
But I only wish you couldn't see. I have got it, and I haven't got it; why do you trouble yourself about me, what things I do?

TRACHALIO
In what way you got it does matter, whether rightfully or wrongfully.

GRIPUS
If I didn't take it in the sea, there's not a reason why you shouldn't deliver me up to the cross. If I took it in the sea with my net, how is it yours rather than my own?

TRACHALIO
to DÆMONES . He is deceiving you; the matter happened in this way, as I am telling you.

GRIPUS
What do you say?

TRACE.
So long as the person that has the first right to speak is speaking, do *to DÆMONES* put a check on him, please, if he belongs to you.

GRIPUS
What, do you wish the same thing to be done to myself, that your master has been accustomed to do to yourself? If he is in the habit of putting a check upon you, this master of ours isn't in the habit of doing so with us.

DÆM.
to TRACUALIO . In that remark only has he got the better of you. What do you want now? Tell me.

TRACHALIO
For my part, I neither ask for a share of that wallet there, nor have I

ever said this day that it is my own; but in it there is a little casket that belongs to this female *pointing to PALÆSTRA* , whom a short time since I averred to be free born.

DÆM.
You are speaking of her, I suppose, whom a short time since you said was my countrywoman?

TRACHALIO
Just so; and those trinkets which formerly, when little, she used to wear, are there in that casket, which is in that wallet. This thing is of no service to him, and will be of utility to her, poor creature, if he gives it up, by means of which to seek for her parents.

DÆM.
I'll make him give it up; hold your tongue.

GRIPUS
I' faith, I'm going to give nothing to that fellow.

TRACHALIO
I ask for nothing but the casket and the trinkets.

GRIPUS
What if they are made of gold?

TRACHALIO
What's that to you? Gold shall be paid for gold, silver shall have its weight in silver in return.

GRIPUS
Please let me see the gold; after that I'll let you see the casket.

DÆM.
to GRIPUS . Do you beware of punishment, and hold your tongue. *To TRACHALIO.* As you commenced to speak do you go on.

TRACK.

This one thing I entreat of you, that you will have compassion on this female, if, indeed, this wallet is that Procurer's, which I suspect it is. In this matter, I'm saying nothing of certainty to you, but only on conjecture.

GRIPUS
Do you see how the rascal's wheedling him?

TRACHALIO
Allow me to say on as I commenced. If this is the wallet that belongs to that villain whose I say it is, these women here will be able to recognize it; order him to show it to them.

GRIPUS
Say you so? To show it to them?

DÆM.
He doesn't say unreasonably, Gripus, that the wallet should be shown.

GRIPUS
Yes, i' faith, confoundedly unreasonably.

DÆM.
How so?

GRIPUS
Because, if I do show it, at once they'll say, of course, that they recognize it.

TRACHALIO
Source of villany, do you suppose that all other people are just like yourself, you author of perjury?

GRIPUS
All this I easily put up with, so long as he *pointing to DÆMONES* is of my way of thinking.

TEACH.
But now he is against you; from this *pointing to the wallet* will he obtain true testimony.

DÆM.
Gripus, do you pay attention. *To TRACHALIO.* You explain in a few words what it is you want?

TRACHALIO
For my part, I have stated it; but if you haven't understood me, I'll state it over again. Both of these women *pointing to them* , as I said a short time since, ought to be free; *pointing to PALÆSTRA* she was stolen at Athens when a little girl.

GRIPUS
Tell me what that has got to do with the wallet, whether they are slaves or whether free women?

TRACHALIO
You wish it all to be told over again, you rascal, so that the day may fail us.

DÆM.
Leave off your abuse, and explain to me what I've been asking.

TRACHALIO
There ought to be a casket of wicker-work in that wallet, in which are tokens by means of which she may be enabled to recognize her parents, by whom, when little, she was lost at Athens, as I said before.

GRIPUS
May Jupiter and the Gods confound you. What do you say, you sorcerer of a fellow? What, are these women dumb, that they are not able to speak for themselves?

TRACHALIO
They are silent for this reason, because a silent woman is always

better than a talking one.

GRIPUS
Then, i' faith, by your way of speaking, you are neither a man nor a woman to my notion.

TRACHALIO
How so?

GRIPUS
Why, because neither talking nor silent are you ever good for anything. Prithee *to DÆMONES* , shall I ever be allowed to-day to speak?

DÆM.
If you utter a single word more this day, I'll break your head for you.

TRACHALIO
As I had commenced to say it, old gentleman, I beg you to order him to give up that casket to these young women; if for it he asks any reward for himself, it shall be paid; whatever else is there besides, let him keep for himself.

GRIPUS
Now at last you say that, because you are aware it is my right; just now you were asking to go halves.

TRACHALIO
Aye, and even still I ask it.

GRIPUS
I've seen a kite making a swoop, even when he got nothing at all however.

DÆM.
to GRIPUS . Can't I shut your mouth without a drubbing?

GRIPUS

pointing to TRACHALIO . If that fellow is silent, I'll be silent; if he talks, allow me to talk in my own behalf.

DÆM.
Please now give me this wallet, Gripus.

GRIPUS
I'll trust it to you; but for you to return it me, if there are none of those things in it.

DÆM.
It shall be returned.

GRIPUS
Take it. *Gives him the wallet.*

DÆM.
Now then listen, Palæstra and Ampelisca, to this which I say: is this the wallet, in which this Procurer said that your casket was?

PALAESTRA
It is the same.

GRIPUS
aside . Troth, to my sorrow, I'm undone; how on the instant, before she well saw it, she said that it was it.

PALAESTRA
I'll make this matter plain to you, instead of difficult. There ought to be a casket of wicker-work there in that wallet; whatever is in there I'll state by name; don't you show me anything. If I say wrong, I shall then have said this to no purpose; then you shall keep these things, whatever is in there for yourselves. But if the truth, then I entreat you that what is my own may be restored to me.

DÆM.
I agree; you ask for bare justice only, in my way of thinking, at least.

GRIPUS
But, i' faith, in mine, for extreme injustice; what if she is a witch or a sorceress, and shall mention exactly everything that's in it P Is a sorceress to have it?

DÆM.
She shan't get it, unless she tells the truth; in vain will she be conjuring. Unloose the wallet, then *giving it to GRIPUS* , that as soon as possible I may know what is the truth.

GRIPUS
first unfastens the straps of the wallet, and then hands it to his MASTER . Take it, it's unfastened. *DÆMONES takes out the casket.* Alas, I'm undone; I see the casket.

DÆM.
holding it up, and addressing PALÆSTRA . Is this it?

PALAESTRA
That is it. O my parents, here do I keep you locked up; here have I enclosed both my wealth and my hopes of recognizing you.

GRIPUS
aside . Then, by my faith, the Gods must be enraged with you, whoever you are, who fasten up your parents in so narrow a compass.

DÆM.
Gripus, come hither, your cause is being tried. *To PALÆSTRA.* Do you, young woman, away at a distance there say what's in it, and of what appearance; mention them all. By my troth, if you make ever so slight a mistake, even if afterwards you wish, madam, to correct yourself, you'll be making a great mistake.

GRIPUS
You demand what's real justice.

TRACHALIO

By my troth, then, he doesn't demand yourself; for you are the opposite of justice.

DÆM.
Now then, say on, young woman. Gripus, give attention and hold your tongue.

PALAESTRA
There are some trinkets.

DÆM.
looking in the casket . See, here they are, I espy them.

GRIPUS
aside . In the first onset I an. worsted; *takes hold of the arm of DÆMONES* hold, don't be showing.

DÆM.
Of what description are they? Answer in their order.

PALAESTRA
In the first place, there's a little sword of gold, with an inscription.

DÆM.
Just tell me, what the characters are upon that little sword.

PALAESTRA
The name of my father. Next, on the other side, there's a little two-edged axe, of gold likewise, with an inscription: there on the axe is the name of my mother.

DÆM.
Stay; tell me, what's the name of your father upon the little sword?

PALAESTRA
Dæmones.

DÆM.

Immortal Gods! where in the world are my hopes?

GRIPUS
Aye, by my troth, and where are mine?

DÆM.
Do proceed forthwith, I entreat you.

GRIPUS
Cautiously, or else *aside* away to utter perdition.

DÆM.
Say, what's the name of your mother, here upon the little axe?

PALAESTRA
Dædalis.

DÆM.
The Gods will that I should be preserved.

GRIPUS
But that I should be ruined.

DÆM.
This must be my own daughter, Gripus.

GRIPUS
She may be for me, indeed. *To TRACHALIO.* May all the Gods confound you who this day saw me with your eyes, and myself as well for a blockhead, who didn't look about a hundred times first to see that no one was watching me, before I drew the net out of the water.

PALAESTRA
Next, there's a little knife of silver, and two little hands linked together, and then a little sow.

GRIPUS

aside . Nay, then, go and be hanged, you with your little sow and with your little pigs.

PALAESTRA
There's also a golden drop, which my father presented to me upon my birthday.

DÆM.
Undoubtedly there is; but I cannot restrain myself any longer from embracing you. My daughter, blessings on you; I am that father who begot you; I am Dæmones, and see, your mother Dædalis is in the house here *pointing to his cottage* .

AMPELISCA
embracing him . Blessings on you, my unlooked-for father.

DÆM.
Blessings on you; how joyously do I embrace you.

TRACHALIO
'Tis a pleasure to me, inasmuch as this falls to your lot from your feelings of affection.

DÆM.
Come then, Trachalio, if you can, bring that wallet into the house.

TRACHALIO
taking the wallet . See the villany of Gripus; inasmuch, Gripus, as this matter has turned out unfortunately for you, I congratulate you.

DÆM.
Come, then, let's go, my daughter, to your mother, who will be better able to enquire of you into this matter from proofs; who had you more in her hands, and is more thoroughly acquainted with your tokens.

TRACHALIO
Let's all go hence in-doors, since we are giving our common aid.

PALAESTRA
Follow me, Ampelisca.

AMPELISCA
That the Gods favour you, it is a pleasure to me. *They all go into the cottage of DÆMONES, exceptGRIPUS.*

GRIPUS
to himself . Am I not a blockhead of a fellow, to have this day fished up that wallet? Or, when I had fished it up, not to have hidden it somewhere in a secret spot? By my troth, I guessed that it would be a troublesome booty for me, because it fell to me in such troublous weather. I' faith, I guess that there's plenty of gold and silver there. What is there better for me than to be off hence in-doors and secretly hang myself — at least for a little time, until this vexation passes away from me? *Goes into the cottage.*

Enter DÆMONES, from his cottage.

DÆM.
to himself. O ye immortal Gods, what person is there more fortunate than I, who unexpectedly have discovered my daughter? Isn't it the fact, that if the Gods will a blessing to befall any person, that longed-for pleasure by some means or other, falls to the lot of the virtuous? I this day, a thing that I never hoped for nor yet believed, have unexpectedly discovered my daughter, and I shall bestow her upon a respectable young man of noble family, an Athenian, and my kinsman. For that reason I wish him to be fetched hither to me as soon as possible, and I've requested my servant to come out here, that he may go to the Forum. Still, I'm surprised at it that he isn't yet come out. I think I'll go to the door. *Opens the door, and looks in.* What do I behold? Embracing her, my wife is clasping my daughter around her neck. Her caressing is really almost too foolish and sickening.

DÆM.
Goes to the door again, and calls out. 'Twere better, wife, for an end

to be made at last of your kissing; and make all ready that I may perform a sacrifice, when I come in-doors, in honor of the household Gods, inasmuch as they have increased our family. At home I have lambs and swine for sacred use. But why, ladies, are you detaining that Trachalio? Oh, I see he's coming out of doors, very seasonably. *Enter TRACHALIO, from the cottage.*

TRACHALIO
speaking to those within . Wheresoever he shall be, I'll seek Plesidippus out at once, and bring him together with me to you.

DÆM.
Tell him how this matter has fallen out about my daughter. Request him to leave other occupations and to come here.

TRACHALIO
Very well

DÆM.
Tell him that I'll give him my daughter for a wife.

TRACHALIO
Very well.

DÆM.
And that I knew his father, and that he is a relation of my own.

TRACHALIO
Very well.

DÆM.
But do make haste.

TRACHALIO
Very well.

DÆM.
Take care and let a dinner be prepared here at once.

TRACHALIO
Very well.

DÆM.
What, all very well?

TRACHALIO
Very well. But do you know what it is I want of you? That you'll remember what you promised, that this day I'm to be free.

DÆM.
Very well.

TRACHALIO
Take care and entreat Plesidippus to give me my freedom.

DÆM.
Very well.

TRACHALIO
And let your daughter request it; she'll easily prevail.

DÆM.
Very well.

TRACHALIO
And that Ampelisca may marry me, when I'm a free man.

DÆM.
Very well.

TRACHALIO
And that I may experience a pleasing return to myself in kindness for my actions.

DÆM.
Very well.

TRACHALIO

What, all very well?

DÆM.
Very well. Again I return you thanks. But do you make haste to proceed to the city forthwith, and betake yourself hither again.

TRACHALIO
Very well. I'll be here directly. In the meanwhile, do you make the other preparations that are necessary. *(Exit TRACHALIO.)*

DÆM.
Very well — may Hercules ill befriend him with his "very-welling;" he has so stuffed my ears with it. Whatever it was I said, "very well" was the answer.

Enter GRIPUS, from the cottage.

GRIPUS
How soon may I have a word with you, Dæmones?

DÆM.
What's your business, Gripus?

GRIPUS
Touching that wallet, if you are wise, be wise; keep what goods the Gods provide you.

DÆM.
Does it seem right to you, that, what belongs to another I should assert to be my own?

GRIPUS
What, not a thing that I found in the sea?

DÆM.
So much the better does it happen for him who lost it; none the more is it necessary that it should be your wallet.

GRIPUS
For this reason are you poor because you are too scrupulously righteous.

DÆM.
O Gripus, Gripus, in the life of man very many traps there are, in what they are deceived by guile. And, by my troth, full often is a bait placed in them, which bait if any greedy person greedily snaps at, through his own greediness he is caught in the trap. He who prudently, skilfully, and warily, takes precaution, full long he may enjoy that which is honestly acquired. This booty seems to me to be about to be made a booty of by me, that it may go hence with a greater blessing than it first came. What, ought I to conceal what I know was brought to me as belonging to another? By no means will my friend Dæmones do that. 'Tis ever most becoming for prudent men to be on their guard against this, that they be not themselves confederates with their servants in evil-doing. Except only when I'm gaming, I don't care for any gain.

GRIPUS
At times, I've seen the Comedians, when acting, in this fashion repeat sayings in a wise manner, and be applauded for them, when they pointed out this prudent conduct to the public. But when each person went thence his own way home, there wasn't one after the fashion which they had recommended.

DÆM.
Go in-doors, don't be troublesome, moderate your tongue. I'm going to give you nothing, don't you deceive yourself.

GRIPUS
apart . Then I pray the Gods that whatever's in that wallet, whether it's gold, or whether silver, it may all become ashes. *Goes into the cottage.*

DÆM.
This is the reason why we have bad servants. For this master, if he

had combined with any servant, would have made both himself and the other guilty of a theft. While he was thinking that he himself had made a capture, in the meantime he himself would have been made a capture: capture would have led to capture. Now will I go in-doors from here and sacrifice; after that, I'll at once order the dinner to be cooked for us. *Goes into the cottage.*

Enter PLESIDIPPUS and TRACHALIO, at the further end of the stage.

PLESIDIPPUS
Tell me all these things over again my life, my Trachalio, my freedman, my patron, aye rather, my father; has Palæstra found her father and mother?

TRACHALIO
She has found them.

PLESIDIPPUS
And is she my countrywoman?

TRACHALIO
So I think.

PLESIDIPPUS
And is she to marry me?

TRACHALIO
So I suspect.

PLESIDIPPUS
Prithee, do you reckon that he will betroth her to me?

TRACHALIO
So I reckon.

PLESIDIPPUS
Well, shall I congratulate her father too upon his finding her?

TRACHALIO
So I reckon.

PLESIDIPPUS
Well, her mother too?

TRACHALIO
So I reckon.

PLESIDIPPUS
What then do you reckon?

TRACHALIO
What you ask me, I reckon.

PLESIDIPPUS
Tell me then how much do you reckon it at?

TRACHALIO
What I, I reckon ——

PLESIDIPPUS
Then really, do carry over. Don't be always making a reckoning.

TRACHALIO
So I reckon.

PLESIDIPPUS
What if I run? *Pretends to run.*

TRACHALIO
So I reckon.

PLESIDIPPUS
Or rather gently, this way? *He walks slowly.*

TRACHALIO
So I reckon.

PLESIDIPPUS
Ought I to salute her as well when I arrive?

TRACHALIO
So I reckon.

PLESIDIPPUS
Her father too?

TRACHALIO
So I reckon.

PLESIDIPPUS
After that, her mother?

TRACHALIO
So I reckon.

PLESIDIPPUS
And what after that? When I arrive, should I also embrace her father?

TRACHALIO
So I don't reckon.

PLESIDIPPUS
Well, her mother?

TRACHALIO
So I don't reckon.

PLESIDIPPUS
Well, her own self?

TRACHALIO
So I don't reckon.

PLESIDIPPUS
Confusion, he has closed his reckoning; now when I wish him, he doesn't reckon.

TRACHALIO
You are not in your senses; follow me.

PLESIDIPPUS
Conduct me, my patron, where you please. *They go into the cottage of DÆMONES.*

ACT V.

Enter LABRAX, at a distance.

LABRAX
to himself . What other mortal being is there living this day more wretched than myself, whom before the commissioned judges Plesidippus has just now cast? Palæstra has just been taken from me by award. I'm ruined outright. But I do believe that Procurers were procreated for mere sport; so much do all persons make sport if any misfortune befalls a Procurer. Now I'll go look here, in the Temple of Venus, for that other female, that her at least I may take away, the only portion of my property that remains. *He retires a little distance.*

Enter GRIPUS, from the cottage of DÆMONES, with a spit in his hand.

GRIPUS
calling to the PEOPLE within . By the powers, you shall never this day at nightfall behold Gripus alive, unless the wallet is restored to me.

LABRAX
behind . I'm ready to die; when I hear mentior made anywhere of a wallet, I'm thumped, as it were with a stake, upon the breast.

GRIPUS
at the door, continuing . That scoundrel is free; I, the person that held the net in the sea, and drew up the wallet, to him you refuse to give anything.

LABRAX
behind . O ye immortal Gods! by his talk this person has made me prick up my ears.

GRIPUS
continuing . By my troth, in letters a cubit long, I'll immediately post

it up in every quarter, “If any person has lost a wallet with plenty of gold and silver, let him come to Gripus.” You shan’t keep it as you are wishing.

LABRAX
behind . I’ faith, this person knows, as I think, who has got the wallet. This person must be accosted by me; ye Gods, aid me, I do entreat you. *Some one calls GRIPUS, from within.*

GRIPUS
Why are you calling me back in-doors? *He rubs away at the spit.* I want to clean this here before the door. But surely this, i’ faith, has been made of rust, and not of iron; so that the more I rub it, it becomes quite red and more slender. Why surely this spit has been drugged; it does waste away so in my hands.

LABRAX
accosting him . Save you, young man.

GRIPUS
May the Gods prosper you with your shorn pate.

LABRAX
What’s going on?

GRIPUS
A spit being cleaned.

LABRAX
How do you do?

GRIPUS
What are you? Prithee, are you a medicant?

LABRAX
No, i’ faith, I am more than a medicant by one letter.

GRIPUS

Then you are a “mendicant.”

LABRAX
You’ve hit it to a nicety.

GRIPUS
Your appearance seems suitable to it. But what’s the matter with you?

LABRAX
Troth, this last night I was shipwrecked at sea the vessel was cast away, and to my misfortune I lost there everything that I had.

GRIPUS
What did you lose?

LABRAX
A wallet with plenty of gold and silver.

GRIPUS
Do you at all remember what there was in the wallet which was lost?

LABRAX
What matters for us now to be talking of it, if, in spite of it, it’s lost?

GRIPUS
What if I know who has found it? I wish to learn from you the tokens.

LABRAX
Eight hundred golden pieces were there in a purse, besides a hundred Philippean minæ in a wash-leather bag apart.

GRIPUS
aside . Troth, it is a noble prize; I shall be getting a handsome reward. The Gods show respect to mortals; therefore I shall come off bounteously rewarded. No doubt, it is this man’s wallet. *To LABRAX.* Do you proceed to relate the rest.

LABRAX
A large talent of silver of full weight was in a purse, besides a bowl, a goblet, a beaker, a boat, and a cup.

GRIPUS
Astonishing! you really did have some splendid riches.

LABRAX
A shocking expression is that, and a most abominable one. “You did have, and now have not.”

GRIPUS
What would you be ready to give to one who should find these out for you, and give you information? Say, speedily and at once.

LABRAX
Three hundred didrachms.

GRIPUS
Rubbish.

LABRAX
Four hundred.

GRIPUS
Old thrums.

LABRAX
Five hundred.

GRIPUS
A rotten nut.

LABRAX
Six hundred.

GRIPUS
You are prating about mere tiny weevils.

LABRAX
I'll give seven hundred.

GRIPUS
Your mouth is hot, you are cooling it just now.

LABRAX
I'll give a thousand didrachms.

GRIPUS
You are dreaming.

LABRAX
I add no more; be off with you.

GRIPUS
Hear me then; if, i' faith, I should be off from here, I shan't be here.

LABRAX
Would you like a hundred as well as the thousand?

GRIPUS
You are asleep.

LABRAX
Say how much you ask.

GRIPUS
That you mayn't be adding anything against your inclination, a great talent; it's not possible for three obols to be bated thence; then do you say either "yes" or "no" at once.

LABRAX
aside . What's to be done here? It's a matter of necessity, I see: *to GRIPUS* the talent shall be paid.

GRIPUS
going towards the altar . Just step this way; I wish Venus here to put

the question to you.

LABRAX
Whatever you please, that command me.

GRIPUS
Touch this altar of Venus.

LABRAX
touching it . I am touching it.

GRIPUS
By Venus here must you swear to me.

LABRAX
What must I swear?

GRIPUS
What I shall bid you.

LABRAX
Dictate in words just as you like. *Aside.* What I've got at home, I shall never beg of any one else.

GRIPUS
Take hold of this altar.

LABRAX
taking hold of it . I am taking hold of it.

GRIPUS
Swear that you will pay me the money on that same day on which you shall gain possession of the wallet.

LABRAX
Be it so.

GRIPUS
speaking, while LABRAX repeats after him . Venus of Cyrene, I

invoke thee as my witness, if I shall find that wallet which I lost in the ship, safe with the gold and silver, and it shall come into my possession ——

GRIPUS
"Then to this Gripus do I promise;" say so and place your hand upon me.

LABRAX
Then to this Gripus do I promise, Venus, do thou hear me ——

GRIPUS
followed by LABRAX . "That I will forthwith give him a great talent of silver."

GRIPUS
If you defraud me, say, may Venus utterly destroy your body, and your existence in your calling. *Aside.* As it is, do you have this for yourself, when you've once taken the oath.

LABRAX
If, Venus, I shall do anything amiss against this oath, I supplicate thee that all Procurers may henceforth be wretched.

GRIPUS
aside . As it is, it shall be so, even if you do keep your oath. Do you wait here; *going towards the cottage* — I'll at once make the old gentleman come out; do you forthwith demand of him that wallet. *Goes in.*

LABRAX
to himself . If ever so much he shall restore to me this wallet, I'm not this day indebted to him three obols even. It's according to my own intention what my tongue swears. *The door opens.* But I'll hold my peace; see, here he's coming out, and bringing the old man.

Enter GRIPUS, followed by DÆMONES, with the wallet.

GRIPUS
Follow this way. Where is this Procurer? Hark you *to LABRAX* , see now; this person *pointing at DÆMONES* has got your wallet.

DÆM.
I have got it, and I confess that it is in my possession; and if it's yours, you may have it. Everything, just as each particular was in it, shall in like manner be given safe to you. *Holding it out.* Take it, if it's yours.

LABRAX
Immortal Gods, it is mine. *Takes it.* Welcome, dear wallet.

DÆM.
Is it yours?

LABRAX
Do you ask the question? If indeed, i' faith, it were in Jove's possession, still it is my own.

DÆM.
Everything in it is safe; there has only been one casket taken out of it, with some trinkets, by means of which this day I have found my daughter.

LABRAX
What person?

DÆM.
Palæstra, who was your property, she has been discovered to be my own daughter.

LABRAX
By my troth, it has happily turned out so; since this matter has happened so fortunately for you according to your wishes, I'm rejoiced.

DÆM.

In that I don't readily believe you.

LABRAX
Aye, by my faith, that you may be sure that I'm rejoiced, you shan't give me three obols for her; I excuse you.

DÆM.
I' faith, you are acting kindly.

LABRAX
No, troth; it's really yourself, indeed, that's doing so. *Going off with the wallet.*

GRIPUS
Hark you, you've got the wallet now.

LABRAX
I have got it.

GRIPUS
Make haste.

LABRAX
Make haste about what?

GRIPUS
To pay me the money.

LABRAX
By my troth, I'll neither give you anything nor do I owe you anything.

GRIPUS
What mode of proceeding is this? Don't you owe it me?

LABRAX
Troth, not I indeed.

GRIPUS

Didn’t you promise it me upon your oath?

LABRAX
I did take an oath, and now I’ll take an oath, if it is in any way my own pleasure; oaths were invented for preserving property, not for losing it.

GRIPUS
Give me, will you, a great talent of silver, you most perjured fellow.

DÆM.
Gripus, what talent is it you are asking him for?

GRIPUS
He promised it me on oath.

LABRAX
I chose to swear; *turning to DÆMONES* are you the priest as to my perjury?

DÆM.
to GRIPUS . For what reason did he promise you the money?

GRIPUS
If I restored this wallet into his hands, he swore that he would give me a great talent of silver.

LABRAX
Find me a person with whom I may go to the judge, to decide whether you did not make the bargain with wicked fraudulence, and whether I am yet five-and-twenty years old.

GRIPUS
pointing to DÆMONES . Go to the judge with him.

LABRAX
No; I must have some other person.

DÆM.
to LABRAX . Then I shan't allow you to take it away from him, unless I shall have found him guilty. Did you promise him the money?

LABRAX
I confess it.

DÆM.
What you promised my slave must needs be my own. Don't you be supposing, Procurer, that you are to be using your pimping honesty here. That can't be.

GRIPUS
to LABRAX . Did you fancy now that you had got hold of a person whom you might cheat? It must be paid down here *holding his hand* , good silver coin; I shall, at once, pay it to him *pointing to DÆMONES* , so that he may give me my liberty.

DÆM.
Inasmuch, therefore, as I have acted courteously towards you, and by my means these things *pointing to the wallet* have been saved for you ——

GRIPUS
I' faith, by my means, rather; don't say by yours.

DÆM.
to GRIPUS . If you are prudent you'll hold your tongue. *To LABRAX.* Then it befits you in a like courteous manner kindly to return the obligation to myself, who so well merit the same.

LABRAX
You are pleading, of course, for my right?

DÆM.
ironically . It would be a wonder if I didn't, at a loss to myself, ask you to forego your right.

GRIPUS
aside . I'm all right; the Procurer's giving way; my freedom is at hand.

DÆM.
pointing to GRIPUS . He found this wallet; he is my slave. I therefore have preserved this for you, together with a large sum of money.

LABRAX
I return you thanks, and with regard to the talent that I promised on oath to him, there's no reason that you shouldn't receive it.

GRIPUS
Hark you, give it me then, if you are wise.

DÆM.
to GRIPUS . Will you hold your tongue, or not?

GRIPUS
You pretend to be acting on my side: I tell you * * * * * * by my troth, you shan't do me out of that, if I did lose the other booty.

DÆM.
You shall have a beating if you add a single word.

GRIPUS
Troth now, do you kill me even; I'll never be silent on any terms, unless my mouth is shut with the talent.

LABRAX
For yourself, in fact, is he using his exertions; do hold your tongue.

DÆM.
Step this way, Procurer.

LABRAX
Very well. *They walk on one side.*

GRIPUS
Proceed openly; I don't want any whisperings or mumblings to be going on.

DÆM.
Tell me, at what price did you buy that other young woman, Ampelisca?

LABRAX
I paid down a thousand didrachms.

DÆM.
Should you like me to make you a handsome offer?

LABRAX
I should like it much.

DÆM.
I'll divide the talent.

LABRAX
You act fairly.

DÆM.
For that other woman Ampelisca, that she may be free, take you one half, and give the other half to him.

LABRAX
By all means.

DÆM.
For that half I'll give his freedom to Gripus, by means of whom you found your wallet, and I my daughter.

LABRAX
You act fairly; I return you many thanks. *They return to GRIPUS.*

GRIPUS

How soon then is the money to be returned to me?

DÆM.
The money's paid, Gripus; I've got it.

GRIPUS
You, faith; but I had rather it were myself.

DÆM.
I' faith, there's nothing for you here, so don't you be expecting it. I wish you to release him from his oath.

GRIPUS
aside. Troth, I'm undone; if I don't hang myself, I'm utterly done for. *Aloud.* I' faith, after this day you certainly shall never be cheating me again.

DÆM.
Dine here to-day, Procurer.

LABRAX
Be it so; the proposal is to my taste.

DÆM.
Do you both follow me in-doors. *He comes forward and addresses the AUDIENCE.* Spectators, I would invite you to dinner as well, were it not that I'm going to give nothing, and that there is no good cheer at all at home; and if, too, I didn't believe that you are invited to dinner elsewhere. But if you shall be willing to give hearty applause to this Play, do you all come to make merry at my house some sixteen years hence. Do you *to LABRAX and GRIPUS* both dine here with me to-day.

GRIPUS
Be it so.

An ACTOR
(To the AUDIENCE) Now give us your applause.

STICHUS

Translated by Henry Thomas Riley

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THE SUBJECT.

THE plot of this Play (which is supposed by some Commentators not to have been written by Plautus) is extremely meagre. Antipho, a wealthy and jovial old gentleman of Athens, has two daughters, Philumena and Pamphila. They are married to two brothers, Epignomus and Pamphilus, who, having run through their property in the company of idlers and Parasites, have, with the view of retrieving their fortunes, taken to merchandize. Having been absent three years from home, and no tidings being heard of them whether they are alive or not Antipho assumes the prerogative of a father, and requests his daughters to marry again; who resolve, however, to maintain their fidelity to their absent husbands. Philumena sends the Parasite, Gelasimus, to the harbour to see if any ships have arrived. In the meantime, the boy, Pinacium, brings her word that her husband has. returned to Athens. He and his brother meet the Parasite, and resist all his attempts to fasten himself upon them; they then go home, and become reconciled to Antipho, from whom, in their poverty, they had become estranged; and who now requests them to make him a present of a female slave. Stichus, the servant, obtains a day's holiday, together with a present from his master of a cask of wine. He makes an entertainment for himself, his friend Sagarinus, and their mistress Stephanium. The Play concludes with a dance, to the music of the Piper.

THE ACROSTIC ARGUMENT.

[Supposed to have been written by Priscian the Grammarian.]

An old man (Senex) rebukes his daughters because they are so (Tam) persevering in thus (Ita) adhering to their husbands, brothers, poor and abroad, and in not deserting them. And, on the other hand (Contra), he is softened down by prudent words to allow them to retain (Habere) those whom they have already got. Enriched with wealth, their husbands (Viri) come back from beyond the sea; each one retains his own (Suam) wife, and to Stichus a holiday is given.

ACT I.

Enter PHILUMENA and PAMPHILA.

PHILUMENA
Sister, I think that Penelope was wretched from her very soul, who was so long deprived of her husband; for from our own fortunes, whose husbands are absent from us, we judge of her feelings; for whose affairs, still, in their absence, both night and day, sister, as is becoming, we are ever anxious.

PAMPHILA
'Tis right that we should do our duty; and we do not that any further than affection bids us.

PHILUMENA
But, sister, step this way a moment; I want to speak about the affairs of my husband.

PAMPHILA
Ain't they prospering, pray?

PHILUMENA
I hope and wish so, indeed. But, sister, at this am I vexed, that your and my father, one who is esteemed as especially honorable among all his fellow-citizens, should be now acting the part of a dishonorable man; who is undeservedly doing so great an injustice to our absent husbands, and is wishing to separate us from them. These things, sister, render me tired of existence; these things are a care and a vexation to me. *She sheds tears.*

PAMPHILA
Weep not, sister, nor do that to your feelings which your father is threatening to do. 'Tis to be hoped that he will act more righteously. I know him well; he says these things in jest; and he would not earn for himself the mountains of the Persians, which are said to be of gold, to do that of which you are in dread. Still, if he does do it, it

befits you by no means to be angry; nor will it happen without some reason. For this is the third year since our husbands have been away from home.

PHILUMENA
’Tis as you say; while, in the meantime, they may be living, and may be well, they do not make us acquainted where they are, what they are doing, whether they are doing well, neither do they return.

PAMPHILA
And do you, sister, regret this, that they do not observe their duty, whereas you do yours?

PHILUMENA
Troth, I do.

PAMPHILA
Hold your peace, if you please; take care, please, that I hear not that same thing from you in future.

PHILUMENA
And why, pray?

PAMPHILA
Because, i’ faith, in my opinion, ’tis proper for all prudent people to observe and to do their duty. For that reason, sister, although you are the older, I advise you to remember your duty; and if they are unjust and act otherwise to us than is right, then, i’ faith, in exactly the same degree, that there may be no further mischief, it befits us studiously to remember our duty by all means in our power.

PHILUMENA
’Tis good; I’m silenced.

PAMPHILA
But do take care and remember it.

PHILUMENA

I do not wish, sister, to be thought to be unmindful of my husband; nor has he thrown away the distinction that he conferred upon me. For, by my troth, his kindness is pleasing and delightful to me; and, really, this choice of mine is not now irksome to me, nor is there any reason why I should wish to abandon this match. But, in fine, 'tis placed in our father's power; that must be done by us which our relatives enjoin.

PAMPHILA
I know it, and in thinking of it I am overwhelmed with grief; for already has he almost disclosed his sentiments.

PHILUMENA
Let us consider, then, what is necessary for us to do.

Enter ANTIPHO from his house, speaking at the door to his SERVANTS.

ANTIPHO
The man in condition of a servant who always waits to be told his duty, and doesn't remember to do it of his own accord, that servant, I say, is not of a deserving character. You remember well on each returning Calends to ask for your allotment of provisions; why, then, do you less remember to do what is necessary to do about the house? Now, therefore, if, when I return, the furniture shall not be set for me, each piece in its proper place, I'll be putting you in mind with a bull's hide remembrancer. Not human beings seem to be living with me, but pigs. Take care, if you please, that my house is clean, when I return home. I shall soon be back home; I'm going to her house, to see my eldest daughter. If any one should enquire for me, call me thence, some of you; or —— I shall be here soon myself.

PHILUMENA
aside . What are we to do, sister, if our father shall resolve against us?

PAMPHILA
It befits us to submit to what he does whose power is the stronger. By

entreating, not by opposing, I think we must use our endeavours. If with mildness we ask for favour, I trust to obtain it of him. Oppose him we cannot, without disgrace and extreme criminality; I will neither do that myself, nor will I give you the advice to do it, but rather that we should entreat him. I know our family; he will yield to entreaty.

ANTIPHO
speaking to himself . In the first place, in what manner I should make a beginning with them, about that I am in doubt; whether I should accost them in language couched in ambiguous terms, after this fashion, as though I had never pretended anything at all against them, or whether as though I had heard that they were deserving of some censure against them; whether I should rather try them gently or with threats. I know that there will be opposition; I know my daughters right well. If they should prefer to remain here rather than to marry afresh, why, let them do so. What need is there for me, the term of my life run out, to be waging war with my children, when I think that they don't at all deserve that I should do so? By no means; I'll have no disturbances. But I think that this is the best thing to be done by me; I'll do thus; I'll pretend as though they had themselves been guilty of some fault; I'll terribly terrify their minds this day by some ambiguous expressions; ana then, after that, as I shall feel disposed, I'll disclose myself. I know that many words will be spoken; I'll go in. *Goes to the door of PHILUMENA'S house.* But the door's open.

PHILUMENA
Why, surely the sound of my father's voice reached my ears.

PAMPHILA
I' troth, 'tis he; let's hasten to meet him with a kiss. *They both run to kiss him.*

PHILUMENA
My father, my respects.

ANTIPHO

And to you the same. Away this instant, and be off from me, *Removes her.*

PHILUMENA
One kiss.

ANTIPHO
I've had enough of your kissing.

PHILUMENA
Prithee, father, why so?

ANTIPHO
Because, as it is, the seasoning of your affection has reached my soul.

PAMPHILA
Sit down here, father. *Points to a chair.*

ANTIPHO
I'll not sit there; do you sit down; I'll sit on the bench. *Sits on a bench.*

PAMPHILA
Wait till I fetch a cushion.

ANTIPHO
You take kind care of me; I'm nicely seated now as I am.

PAMPHILA
Do let me, father. *Goes into the house.*

ANTIPHO
What need is there?

PAMPHILA
There is need. *Coming out, and bringing a cushion.*

ANTIPHO
I'll submit to you. *Arranging the cushion.* Yes, this does very well.

PAMPHILA
Why, daughters can never take too much care of their parent. Whom is it proper that we should esteem more dear than yourself? And then, in the next place, father, our husbands, for whom you have chosen that we should be the mothers of families.

ANTIPHO
You do as it is proper for good wives to do, in esteeming your husbands, though absent, just as though they were present.

PAMPHILA
'Tis propriety, father, for us to highly honor those who have chosen us as companions for themselves.

ANTIPHO
Is there any other person here to listen with his ears to our conversation?

PHILUMENA
There's no one except us and yourself.

ANTIPHO
I wish your attention to be given; for, unacquainted with female matters and ways, I come now as a pupil to you, my instructresses; in order that each of you may tell me what endowments matrons ought to have, who are the best esteemed.

PAMPHILA
What's the reason that you come hither to enquire about the ways of females?

ANTIPHO
Troth, I'm looking for a wife, as your mother's dead and gone.

PAMPHILA
You'll easily find, father, one both worse and of worse morals than she was; one better you'll neither find nor does the sun behold.

ANTIPHO
But I'm making the enquiry of you, and of this sister of yours.

PAMPHILA
I' faith, father, I know how they should be, if they are to be such as I think right.

ANTIPHO
I wish, then, to know what you do think right.

PAMPHILA
That when they walk through the city, they should shut the mouths of all, so that none can speak ill of them with good reason.

ANTIPHO
to PHILUMENA . And now speak you in your turn.

PHILUMENA
What do you wish that I should speak to you about, father?

ANTIPHO
How is the woman most easily distinguished, who is of a good disposition?

PHILUMENA
When she, who has the power of doing ill, refrains from doing so.

ANTIPHO
Not bad that. *To PAMPHILA.* Come, say you, which choice is the preferable, to marry a maiden or a widow?

PAMPHILA
So far as my skill extends, of many evils, that which is the least evil, the same is the least an evil. He that can avoid the women, let him avoid them, so that each day he takes care, the day before, not to do that which, the day after, he may regret.

ANTIPHO

What sort of woman, pray, seems to you by far the wisest?

PHILUMENA
She who, when affairs are prosperous, shall still be able to know herself, and who with equanimity can endure it to be worse with her than it has been.

ANTIPHO
By my troth, in merry mood have I been trying the bent of your dispositions. But 'tis this for which I am come to you, and for which I wished to meet you both. My friends are advising me to the effect that I should remove you hence to my own house.

PAMPHILA
But still, we, whose interests are concerned, are advising you quite otherwise. For either, father, we ought not formerly to have been bestowed in marriage, unless our husbands pleased you, or, it is not right for us now to be taken away when they are absent.

ANTIPHO
And shall I suffer you while I am alive to remain married to men who are beggars?

PAMPHILA
This beggar of mine is agreable to me; her own king is agreable to the queen. In poverty have I the same feelings that once I had in riches.

ANTIPHO
And do you set such high value on thieves and beggars?

PHILUMENA
You did not, as I think, give me in marriage to the money, but to the man.

ANTIPHO
Why are you still in expectation of those who have been absent for now three years? Why don't you accept an eligible match in place of

a very bad one?

PAMPHILA
'Tis folly, father, to lead unwilling dogs to hunt. That wife is an enemy, who is given to a man in marriage against her will.

ANTIPHO
Are you then determined that neither of you will obey the command of your father?

PHILUMENA
We do obey; for where you gave us in marriage, thence are we unwilling to depart.

ANTIPHO
Kindly good b'ye; I'll go and tell my friends your resolutions.

PAMPHILA
They will, I doubt not, think us the more honorable, if you tell them to honorable men.

ANTIPHO
Take you care, then, of their domestic concerns, the best way that you can. *(Exit.)*

PHILUMENA
Now you gratify us, when you direct us aright: now we will hearken to you. Now, sister, let's go indoors.

PAMPHILA
Well, first I'll take a look at home. If, perchance, any news should come to you from your husband, take you care that I know it.

PHILUMENA
Neither will I conceal it from you, nor do you conceal from me what you may know. *Calls at the door of her house.* Ho there, Crocotium, go, fetch hither Gelasimus, the Parasite; bring him here with you. For, i' faith, I wish to send him to the harbour, to see if, perchance,

any ship from Asia has arrived there yesterday or to-day. But, one servant has been sitting at the harbour whole days in waiting; still, however, I wish it to be visited every now and then. Make haste, and return immediately. *Each goes into her own house.*

Enter GELASIMUS.

GELASIMUS
I do suspect that Famine was my mother; for since I was born I have never been filled with victuals. And no man could better return the favour to his mother, than do I right unwillingly return it to my mother, Famine. For in her womb, for ten months she bore me, whereas I have been carrying her for more than ten years in my stomach. She, too, carried me but a little child, wherefore I judge that she endured the less labour; in my stomach no little Famine do I bear, but of full growth, i' faith, and extremely heavy. The labour-pains arise with me each day, but I'm unable to bring forth my mother, nor know I what to do. I've often heard it so said that the elephant is wont to be pregnant ten whole years; for sure this hunger of mine is of its breed. For now for many a year has it been clinging to, my inside. Now, if any person wants a droll fellow, I am on sale, with all my equipage: of a filling-up for these chasms am I in search. When little, my father gave me the name of Gelasimus, because, even from a tiny child, I was a droll chap. By reason of poverty, in fact, did I acquire this name, because, it was poverty that made me to be a droll; for whenever she reaches a person, she instructs him thoroughly in every art. My father used to say that I was born when provisions were dear; for that reason, I do believe, I am now the more sharply set. But on our family such complacence has been bestowed — I am in the habit of refusing no person, if any one asks me out to eat. One form of expression has most unfortunately died away with people, and one, i' faith, most beseeming and most elegant to my thinking, which formerly they employed: "Come here to dinner — do so — really, do promise — don't make any difficulties — is it convenient? — I wish it to be so, I say; I'll not part with you unless you come." But now, in the present day, they have found a substitute for these expressions — a saying, by my

faith, truly right worthless and most vile: “I’d invite you to dinner, were I not dining; out myself.” I’ faith, I wish the very loins of that phrase broken, that it mayn’t repeat its perjury if he does dine at his own house. These phrases reduce me to learn foreign habits, and to spare the necessity for an auctioneer, and so proclaim the auction, and put myself up for sale. *GELASIMUS.*

CROCOTIUM
aside . This is the Parasite, whom I’ve been sent to fetch. I’ll listen to what he’s saying, before I accost him.

GELASIMUS
Now there are a good many curious mischief-makers here, who, with extreme zeal, busy themselves with the affairs of other people, and who have themselves no affairs of their own to busy themselves with. They, when they know that any one is about to have an auction, go forthwith and sift out what’s the reason; whether a debt compels it, or whether he has purchased a farm; or whether, on a divorce, her marriage-portion is to be repaid to his wife. All these, although, i’ faith, I don’t judge them undeserving, in their most wretched state, to go toiling on, I don’t care about. I’ll proclaim the reason of my auction, that they may rejoice in my mishaps, for there’s no person a busybody but what he’s ill-natured too. Very great mishaps, alas! have befallen wretched me. So dreadfully afflicted has my property rendered me: my many drinking-bouts are dead and gone; how many dinners, too, that I’ve bewailed, are dead! how many a draught of honeyed wine; how many breakfasts, too, that I have lost within these last three years! In my wretchedness, for very grief and vexation have I quite grown old. I’m almost dead with hunger.

CROCOTIUM
aside . There’s no one such a droll, as he is when he is hungry.

GELASIMUS
Now am I resolved that I’ll make a sale: out of doors am I obliged to sell whatever I possess. Attend, if you please; the bargains will be for those who are present. I’ve funny bon mots to sell. Come, bid your

price. Who bids a dinner? Does any one bid a breakfast? They'll cost vou an Herculean breakfast or dinner. Ho, there! *to one of the SPECTATORS* did you nod to me? No one will offer you better — I won't allow that any Parasite has better quibbles, cajoleries, and parasitical white lies. I'm selling a rusty flesh-scraper, too; a rusty-coloured brown bottle for the Greek unguents at the sweating-baths; delicate after-dinner powders; an empty Parasite as well *pointing to himself* , in whom to lay by your scraps. 'Tis needful that these should be sold at once for as much as they can; that, if I offer the tenth part. to Hercules, on that account it may be greater * * * * * *

CROCOTIUM
aside . An auction of no great value, by my troth. Hunger has taken hold of the very deepest recess of the fellow's stomach. I'll accost the man. *Moves towards him.*

GELASIMUS
Who's this that's coming towards me? Why, surely this is Crocotium, the maid-servant of Epignomus.

CROCOTIUM
My respects, Gelasimus.

GELASIMUS
That's not my name.

CROCOTIUM
I' faith, for sure that used to be your name.

GELASIMUS
Distinctly it was so, but I've lost it by use. Now I'm called Miccotrogus from what is fact.

CROCOTIUM
O dear! I've laughed a good deal at you to-day.

GELASIMUS
When? or in what place?

CROCOTIUM
Here, when you were carrying on a most worthless auction.

GELASIMUS
How now; did you really hear it?

CROCOTIUM
Aye, and one really right worthy of yourself.

GELASIMUS
Where are you bound for now?

CROCOTIUM
For yourself.

GELASIMUS
Why have you come?

CROCOTIUM
Philumena bade me ask you by all means to come to visit her at her house this instant, together with me.

GELASIMUS
I' faith, but I'll surely come there as fast as I can. Are the entrails cooked by this? With how many lambs has she been sacrificing?

CROCOTIUM
Indeed, she hasn't been sacrificing at all.

GELASIMUS
How? What does she want with me, then?

CROCOTIUM
I think that she's going to ask you for ten measures of wheat.

GELASIMUS
Or me rather ask it of her?

CROCOTIUM

No; that you yourself should lend them to us.

GELASIMUS
Tell her that I've nothing to give myself, or that she could wish to borrow, nor anything whatever, except this cloak that I have on. Even my very tongue that so freely used to offer itself I've sold as well.

CROCOTIUM
How? Have you got no tongue?

GELASIMUS
Why, the former one, that used to say "here, take me," I've lost: see, here's one now that says "give me." *Puts out his tongue.*

CROCOTIUM
A curse may the Gods give you * * * *

GELASIMUS
Aye, if a curse you want, this same tongue will give you that.

CROCOTIUM
Well now, are you coming or not?

GELASIMUS
Well, be off home; tell her I'll be there this moment; make haste and be off. *CROCOTIUM goes into the house.* I wonder why she has requested me to be fetched to her, who has never, before this day, requested that I should be fetched to her, ever since her husband left. I wonder what it can be; except it is for some experiment to be made upon me; I'll go see what she wants. But see, here's her boy, Pinacium. Look at that now; how very facetiously and just like a picture does he stand? Full many a time, for sure, in good troth, has he poured out for me the wine, almost unmixed, right cleverly into a very tiny cup indeed. *Stands aside.*

ACT II.

Enter PINACIUM at a distance, with a fishing-rod, hooks, and a basket in his hand.

PINACIUM
to himself . Mercury, who is said to be the messenger of Jove, never bore such pleasing tidings to his father, as I shall e'en now be telling to my mistress. So loaded do I bear my breast with joy and with delight; and really I don't care to speak a syllable but in a highflown style. The charms of all the loves and graces do I bring; my heart, too, is overleaping its banks, and overflowing with joyousness. Now have you the means of acquiring glory, fame, and honor; make haste, Pinacium, exhort your feet to swiftness, grace your message by your deeds, and come to the rescue of your mistress in her need * * * * * * who is so wretched in awaiting the arrival of her husband, Epignomus; just as becomes her does she dote upon her husband, and anxiously long for him. Now, Pinacium, do as pleases you, run on, just as you like; take care and regard no person at the value of a straw; thrust them from the path with your elbows; make right smooth your way. If a, king shall come in your way, upset the king himself forthwith.

GELASIMUS
apart . Why, I wonder, is Pinacium running so overladen with baggage? He's carrying a rod, and a basket, and a fish-hook.

PINACIUM
to himself . But yet, I think 'tis proper that my mistress should come with entreaty to me, and that she should send envoys to me, and gifts of gold, and chariots in which for me to be borne, for I can't go on foot. Therefore I shall now go back. *Turns back.* I think it is only proper that I should be approached and addressed with entreaties. And do you really think that it's mere nonsense or nothing at all that I am now acquainted with? Blessings so great am I carrying from the harbour, joys so extensive am I bringing, that hardly could my

mistress herself presume to wish this of the Gods, if she were to know it. And am I to carry it, then, of my own accord? It pleases me not, nor do I think that the duty of a man. This way does it seem to be better suited to this news of mine; let her come to meet me, let her entreat me to communicate to her this news. Haughtiness and pride befit prosperous fortunes. But, at last, when I reconsider it, how could she know that I know this? *Turning round.* Well, I can't do otherwise than return, than speak, than relate it at length, and relieve my mistress of her grief, and both mightily increase the good deeds of my ancestors, and present her with a comfort unhoped for and opportune. I'll outdo the deeds of Talthybius, and I'll set all messengers at nought, and at the same time I'll think about the running at the Olympic games. But this distance is far too short for the course; how sorry for it I am. How's this? I see the door's closed. I'll go and knock at the door. *Knocks at the door of PHILUMENA'S house.* Open, and make haste, cause the door to be thrown open; away with all delay. This matter is attended to too carelessly; see how long I've been standing here and knocking. Are you indulging yourselves with a nap? I'll try whether the door or my arms and feet are the stronger. *Knocks and kicks.* I wish much that this door would run away from its master, that for that reason it might meet with a heavy punishment. I'm tired of knocking. Well, be this the last for you. *Knocks again.*

GELASIMUS
apart . I'll go and accost him. *Accosts PINACIUM.* Good day to you.

PINACIUM
And good day to you.

GELASIMUS
Are you turned fisherman, then?

PINACIUM
How long is it since you ate?

GELASIMUS

Whence come you? What are you carrying? Why are you in a hurry?

PINACIUM
About that which is no business of yours, don't you trouble yourself.

GELASIMUS
What's there in that? *Taking up the lid of the basket.* PIN. Snakes, for you to eat.

GELASIMUS
Why are you so pettish?

PINACIUM
If you had any shame, you wouldn't address me.

GELASIMUS
May I learn the truth from you?

PINACIUM
You may; this day you'll get no dinner.

Enter PHILUMENA from her house.

PHILUMENA
Who now, pray, is breaking this door down? *To GELASIMUS.* Are you doing this? Do you come to me like an enemy?

GELASIMUS
My respects to you; I come at your bidding.

PHILUMENA
And is it for that reason you are breaking down my door?

GELASIMUS
Scold your own people; the offenders are your own. I came to see what you wanted me for. Why, for my own part, I pitied this door.

PINACIUM
For that reason your assistance was given so very readily.

PHILUMENA
Pray, who's that, talking here so near to us?

GELASIMUS
Pinacium.

PHILUMENA
Where is he? *Looks on each side.*

PINACIUM
coming forward . Attend to me, and leave alone that needy Parasite, Philumena.

PHILUMENA
Pinacium.

PINACIUM
That name my elders gave me.

PHILUMENA
What's your business

PINACIUM
What's my business, do you ask?

PHILUMENA
Why shouldn't I ask it?

PINACIUM
What's yours with me?

PHILUMENA
Do you insult me, impudent fellow? Answer me, this very instant, Pinacium.

PINACIUM
Bid those, then, to let me alone, who are detaining me.

PHILUMENA

Who are detaining you?

PINACIUM
Do you ask me that? A lassitude is in possession of all my limbs.

PHILUMENA
Well, I know right well that it's not in possession of your tongue.

PINACIUM
With such rapid speed have I been hastening from the harbour, for the sake of your own well-doing.

PHILUMENA
Why, do you bring any good news?

PINACIUM
I bring more, by very much, than you expect.

PHILUMENA
I'm saved, then.

PINACIUM
And I'm done for; lassitude is drinking up my marrow apace.

GELASIMUS
What, then, am I, the marrow of whose stomach, to my sorrow, famine has seized upon?

PHILUMENA
Did you meet any one?

PINACIUM
Many.

PHILUMENA
But any man?

PINACIUM
Very many; but, of the many, not one a greater rascal than he is.

Points at GELASIMUS.

PHILUMENA
How so?

GELASIMUS
I have been affronted already at his saying uncivil things to me. If you irritate me any further —— *Holds up his fist to PINACIUM.*

PINACIUM
I' faith, you'll be plaguy hungry to eat >me.

GELASIMUS
I'll cause you to know that assuredly you've said that with reason.

PINACIUM
I wish everything to be made clean. *Calls to the SERVANTS from the door.* Bring out here your brooms, and a reed as well, that I may destroy all the labours of the spiders and their plaguy webs, and rout out all their looms. *The SERVANTS bring some brooms.*

GELASIMUS
The poor things will be cold in future.

PINACIUM
What? Do you think that they are just like yourself, with only one coat? Take this broom. *Gives him a broom.*

GELASIMUS
I'll take it.

PINACIUM
This I'll take myself. Do you sweep away there.

GELASIMUS
I'll do so. *Sweeps away.*

PINACIUM

calling aloud. Will some one bring here a pail and water?

GELASIMUS
Really, this fellow's playing the Ædile without the vote of the public even. *The water is brought.*

PINACIUM
Come, do you quickly sweep the ground, and sprinkle before he t house.

GELASIMUS
I'll do so.

PINACIUM
It needs be done. I'll knock down the spider-webs there from the door and from the wall.

GELASIMUS
I' faith, a troublesome business, this.

PHILUMENA
Still, I don't at all understand what it means; unless, perchance, some guests are about to come?

PINACIUM
ordering the SERVANTS . Do you spread the couches.

GELASIMUS
aside . The beginning pleases me, about the couches.

PINACIUM
Others, you chop the billets; others, you clean the fish which the fisherman has brought; take you down the gammon of bacon and the collar of brawn.

GELASIMUS
aside . I' faith, this is a very sensible fellow.

PHILUMENA
By my troth, as I imagine, you haven't quite minded the directions of your mistress.

PINACIUM
Why, I've left all matters unattended to by reason of what you wished.

PHILUMENA
Then do you inform me upon that, on account of which you were sent to the harbour?

PINACIUM
I'll tell you. After, with the daybreak, you had sent me to the harbour, the sun with its beams opportunely arose from out of the sea. While I was enquiring of the revenue officers whether any ship had arrived from Asia, and they were saying none had come, I beheld, in the meantime, a bark, than which I think I never saw a greater one. With a favouring breeze, and in full sail, it came into harbour. We were enquiring one of another whose ship it was, and what it carried? In the meantime I espied your husband and his servant Stichus.

PHILUMENA
Ha! what? Did you mention Epignomus?

GELASIMUS
Your husband and my own life.

PINACIUM
He has arrived, I say.

PHILUMENA
Did you see him yourself?

PINACIUM
Yes, and with pleasure too.

GELASIMUS
I’ faith, I’ll surely take the broom, and sweep this place with pleasure.

PINACIUM
He has brought a great amount of silver and gold.

GELASIMUS
’Tis right cleverly done.

PINACIUM
Wool and purple in plenty.

GELASIMUS
Aye, for me to clothe my carcase with.

PINACIUM
Couches, adorned with ivory and gold.

GELASIMUS
I’ll recline at table right regally.

PINACIUM
Besides — Babylonian coverings for couches, and carpets dyed in purple, has he brought.

GELASIMUS
Abundance of fine things. I’ faith, his business has been successful.

PINACIUM
Then, as I began to say, female players on the harp, on the pipe, sackbuts too, has he brought with him, of surprising beauty.

GELASIMUS
Capital! When I’m at my wine, I’ll be quite sportive; then am I in merriest pin.

PINACIUM

Besides many unguents of numerous kinds.

GELASIMUS
I'll not sell my bon mots; I'll not have an auction now; I've got an estate in fee. Let the mischievous hunters of auctions go to perdition. Hercules, I congratulate thee that the tenths which I vowed to thee are increased. 'Tis my hope that at length, by some means or other, I may expel this plaguy famine from my stomach.

PINACIUM
And then, besides, he has brought some Parasites with him.

GELASIMUS
Alas! to my confusion, I'm undone.

PINACIUM
Right funny fellows.

GELASIMUS
I' faith, I'll sweep this dust back, which I just now swept together. *Sweeps it back* . Those bon mots are now on sale, which I was saying I wouldn't sell. I'm done for: now there is occasion for spiteful persons to rejoice at my misfortune. Hercules, thou who art a God, thou really hast departed not oppoitunely.

PHILUMENA
Did you see Pamphilus, the husband of my sister?

PINACIUM
No.

PHILUMENA
Isn't he there?

PINACIUM
Yes, they said that he had come as well. I ran hither before them, with all speed, that I might bring the welcome tidings.

PHILUMENA
Go in-doors, Pinacium; bid the servants prepare the sacred things for me. *To GELASIMUS.* Fare you well!

GELASIMUS
Do you want me to assist?

PHILUMENA
I have servants enough in the house. *PHILUMENA and PINACIUM go into the house.*

GELASIMUS
to himself . In good sooth, Gelasimus, I doubt you have come to but little purpose, if neither he that is here gives you any aid, nor yet he that's coming. I'll off indoors to my books, and take my instructions from the cleverest sayings; for if I don't drive away those fellows, the Parasites that are coming, most surely I'm undone. *(Exit.)*

ACT III.

Enter EPIGNOMUS and STICHUS, followed by some SLAVES.

EPIGNOMUS
Inasmuch as, my business prosperously carried on, I am returned safe home, thanks do I return to Neptune and to his tempests; to Mercury as well, who in my traffic has aided me, and by my profits has rendered my property fourfold. Those whom formerly I affected with sorrow at my departure, the same shall I now make joyous at my arrival. But already have I met my connexion Antipho, and from bad terms have I returned to friendship with him. See, prithee, what money can effect. Since, my affairs prospering, he sees that I've returned, and brought home great wealth, without any mediators, there on board the ship, upon the deck, we have returned to friendship and good feeling. Both he and my brother dine with me this day; for yesterday we were both in the same harbour together; but to-day my ship weighed anchor a little the soonest. Take these people in-doors, Stichus, whom I've brought with me.

STICHUS
Master, whether I'm silent or speak, I'm sure you know how many hardships I've endured in your service; now, on my arrival home, I wish to spend in freedom this one day after these many hardships.

EPIGNOMUS
You ask what's just and right. Stlchus, you may take this day for yourself; I don't object to it. Go where you like. A cask, too, of old wine, I give you to drink.

STICHUS
O, grand! I'll have my mistress this day.

EPIGNOMUS
Even ten, so long as it is at your own expense

STICHUS

What * * * * ?

EPIGNOMUS
What * * * * ?

STICHUS
I'll go and dine * * 'Tis thus it pleases me * * * * *

EPIGNOMUS
Where do you dine to-day?

STICHUS
This plan have I thus resolved upon. I have a mistress here in the neighbourhood, Stephanium, the servantmaid of your brother. I'm going to invite her; I'll take her to a pic-nic entertainment at her fellow- servant's, Sagarinus We both have the same mistress; we are rivals.

EPIGNOMUS
Come then, conduct them in. I grant you this day.

STICHUS
Hold me to blame if I don't make the most of it. Troth now, I'll pass through the garden to my mistress, to engage her beforehand for me this evening; at the same time I'll give my contribution, and bid the dinner to be cooked at Sagarinus's, or else I'll go myself and make my marketing as caterer. Sagarinus, * * * * * * * a servant * * * for my * * * * * with stripes * * * * to take him home well thrashed, I'll make all things to be in readiness here; but I'm delaying myself. And don't you be surprised *to the AUDIENCE* that men, who are slaves, drink, court, and give invitations to dinner? This is allowed us at Athens. But when I think of it, rather than meet with censure, there's here, too, another door to the back buildings of our house. I'll go that way to market; by that way I'll bring back the provisions — through the garden there's a passage that communicates with both houses. *To the SLAVES.* Do you follow me this way. I surely will pull this day to bits. *Goes into the house of EPIGNOMUS.*

Enter GELASIMUS.

GELASIMUS
to himself . I've consulted my books; I'm as sure as possible, that by my funny bon mots I shall recover my patron. Now I'm going to see whether he has arrived by this from the harbour, that when he comes I may smooth him down with my speeches.

EPIGNOMUS
Surely, this is Gelasimus, the Parasite, that's coming.

GELASIMUS
to himself . With lucky auspices, by my troth, this day did I come out of doors; since an omen auspiciously befel me. This was beheld by me; how a weasel carried off a mouse close at my feet. For as she found sustenance for herself this day, so do I hope that I shall do, as the augury predicts. *Sees EPIGNOMUS.* Surely this is Epignomus that's standing here; I'll go and address him. My dear Epignomus, how pleased I am to see you now; how my tears are starting forth for very joy. Have you all along enjoyed your health?

EPIGNOMUS
With care it has been preserved.

GELASIMUS
Right heartily I wish you health.

EPIGNOMUS
You speak kindly, and like a friend. May the Gods grant what you wish.

GELASIMUS

* * *

EPIGNOMUS
I, sup there with you?

GELASIMUS
Since you are returned safe.

EPIGNOMUS
Really, an engagement has been made already; but I give you thanks.

GELASIMUS
Do promise me.

EPIGNOMUS
It's settled.

GELASIMUS
But do, I say.

EPIGNOMUS
The thing's agreed on.

GELASIMUS
By my troth, you'd do it with much pleasure to me.

EPIGNOMUS
I know that well. When an opportunity shall come, it shall be so.

GELASIMUS
Now, then, is the opportunity.

EPIGNOMUS
I' faith, I cannot.

GELASIMUS
Why make difficulties? Do consider; I have I know not what luxuries at hand.

EPIGNOMUS
Do be off, now; seek for yourself another guest for to-day.

GELASIMUS
You promise, then?

EPIGNOMUS
I would make no difficulty if I could.

GELASIMUS
Really, on my word, one thing, for sure, I Promise you, I'd entertain you with pleasure, beyond a doubt, if you would promise.

EPIGNOMUS
Adieu! *Moving.*

GELASIMUS
Have you resolved?

EPIGNOMUS
I have resolved. I shall dine at home.

GELASIMUS
aside . Since nothing has been effected this way, I'll therefore approach him by a more open path, and I'll speak plainly out. *To EPIGNOMUS.* Since you, yourself, are not willing to promise to come to me, should you like that I should come to dine with you?

EPIGNOMUS
If it were possible, I should like it; but here are nine other people coming to dine at my house.

GELASIMUS
For my part, I don't ask that I should recline on the couch; you know that I'm a man for the lower seats.

EPIGNOMUS
But these are deputies of a people, tip-top men they come here as public ambassadors from Ambracia.

GELASIMUS
Let then the deputies of a people, your tip-top men, recline at the tip-top place; I, the lowest, in the lowest quarter.

EPIGNOMUS
It isn't proper for you to be entertained among deputies.

GELASIMUS
I 'faith, and I — I'm a deputy, too, but little it does avail me.

EPIGNOMUS
I intend that to-morrow we shall dine upon the scraps. Sincerely, farewell. *Goes into his house.*

GELASIMUS
By my troth, 'tis clear that I'm undone, and by no fault of my owns. The number is less than it was before by one Gelasimus. I'm resolved, hereafter, never to believe in a weasel, for I know of no beast more uncertain than her. She who herself is ten times a day shifting her place, from her have I taken my omens in matters of life and death to me! I'm determined to call my friends together, to take counsel how by rule I must starve henceforth. *(Exit.)*

ACT IV.

Enter ANTIPHO and PAMPHILUS.

ANTIPHO
So may the Gods favour me, and preserve for me my daughters, it is a pleasure to me, Pamphilus, that I see you both return home to your native land, your business prosperously managed, yourself and your brother.

PAMPHILUS
I should have heard enough from you, Antipho, did I not see that you are friendly to me; now, since I've found that you are my friend, I'll give you credence.

ANTIPHO
I would invite you to my house to dinner, had not your brother told me that you were going to dine at his house to-day, when he invited myself to his house to dinner. And it would have been more proper for me to give you an entertainment on your arrival, than to engage myself to him, were it not that I didn't wish to disoblige him. Now I don't wish with words alone to insinuate myself into your favour; to-morrow you shall be at my house, both you and he, with your wives.

PAMPHILUS
Then, the day after, at my house; for it was yesterday he invited me for to-day. But am I quite reconciled to you, Antipho?

ANTIPHO
Since you have thus thrived in your affairs, as it behoves yourselves and persons friendly disposed to wish, let there be good-will and intercourse between us. Take you care to think of this; according as wealth is obtained by each man, so does he experience his friends. If his fortunes are flourishing, so are his friends true; if his prospects decline, so, too, do his friends decline. Fortune finds friends. *from his house.*

EPIGNOMUS
to himself . I'm now returned. 'Tis a great delight, if you have been long from home, when you return home again, if no anxieties come in contact with your feelings. But, in my absence, so well has my wife taken care of my private affairs, that she has made me free and unembarrassed by anxieties. But, see, here's my brother Pamphilus, walking with his father-in-law.

PAMPHILUS
How fares it, Epignomus?

EPIGNOMUS
How with you? How long since you came into harbour?

PAMPHILUS
Not very long ago.

EPIGNOMUS
aside . And is it since then that he has become on smooth terms with you?

ANTIPHO
overhearing . More smooth than the sea, on which you have both been borne.

EPIGNOMUS
You do as you are wont to do other things. Do we unlade the ship to-day, brother?

PAMPHILUS
I would rather go quietly to work. Let's rather lade ourselves with delights in their turn. How soon will the dinner be cooked? I haven't breakfasted to-day.

EPIGNOMUS
Go in-doors to my house and bathe.

PAMPHILUS

I'll only step home to my own house, to salute the Gods and my wife. If I do that as I wish, I'll forthwith return to your house.

EPIGNOMUS
But your wife is hastening to come here with her sister.

PAMPHILUS
'Tis very good; there will then be the less delay on that account. I shall be at your house this instant.

ANTIPHO
to PAMPHILUS. Before you go away, in your presence I wish to relate a single story to him.

EPIGNOMUS
By all means.

ANTIPHO
There was once an old gentleman, just as I now am; he had two daughters, such as mine now are; they were married to two brothers, just as mine now are to yourselves.

PAMPHILUS
I wonder how the story is to turn out?

ANTIPHO
One of these young men had, as you *to PAMPHILUS* now have, a damsel, a music-girl; he had brought her from abroad, as you have now done. Now, this old gentleman was a widower, just as I now am.

PAMPHILUS
Do proceed; this story is really à propos.

ANTIPHO
Then said this old gentleman to him to whom the music-girl belonged, just as I now say to you ——

PAMPHILUS

I'm listening, and carefully giving heed.

ANTIPHO
"I gave you my daughter, to be a comfortable bedfellow for you; now, I think it fair that one should be given me in return by you, to be my bed-fellow."

PAMPHILUS
Who says that? Does he say it just as though you were to say it?

ANTIPHO
Just as I now say it to you. "Aye, I'll give you two of them," says this young man, "if one's too little; and if you are not satisfied with two," says he, "two more shall be added."

PAMPHILUS
Prithee, who says that? Does he say it just as though I were to say it?

ANTIPHO
He says it just as though you were to say it. Then says this old gentleman, just as though I were to say it, "Well, give me four, if you like, so long only as, i' faith, you find them something to eat as well, that they mayn't consume my victuals."

PAMPHILUS
Why surely it must have been a stingy old chap to say that, in asking food as well of him who promised them to him.

ANTIPHO
Why surely, this young man must have been a good-for-nothing fellow, who forthwith, when the other asked him, refused to give him a grain of wheat. But, i' troth, the old gentleman asked what was fair, inasmuch as the dowry which he had given to his daughter, he wished him to have as an equivalent for the music-girl.

PAMPHILUS
I' faith, for sure I really do think that the young man was well advised, who wouldn't give a mistress to that old fellow in return for

the dower.

ANTIPHO
The old gentleman wished, indeed, if he could, to bargain for their maintenance; because he couldn't, he said he wished it to be done on what terms it might. "Done," said this young man. "You do me a kindness," said the old gentleman. "Have I the thing agreed upon?" said he. "I'll do even as you wish it to be done," said the other. But I'll be off in-doors, and congratulate my daughters on your arrival. Then I'll go wash me at the bath; there will I take all care of my old age; after that, when I've bathed, lying down, I'll await you at my leisure. *(Exit.)*

PAMPHILUS
A funny mortal, Antipho; how cleverly he did make up his story. Even yet the rogue considers himself a young man. A mistress shall be given to the fellow, to sing to the old chap at night in bed; for, i' faith, indeed, I know not of what other use a mistress can be to him. But how fares our Parasite, Gelasimus? Is he well, too?

EPIGNOMUS
I' faith, I saw the fellow not so very long ago.

PAMPHILUS
How fares he?

EPIGNOMUS
Like one half-starved.

PAMPHILUS
Why didn't you invite the fellow to your house to dinner?

EPIGNOMUS
That on my arrival I mightn't be wasting anything But see, here's the wolf in the Fable; here he is in person with his ravenous fit.

PAMPHILUS
We'll have some sport with the fellow.

EPIGNOMUS
You put me in mind of a plan I had already resolved on.

Enter GELASIMUS.

GELASIMUS
... *to the AUDIENCE* . But as I had begun to tell you; while I have been absent hence, I've now been consulting with my friends and with my relatives. They have been my advisers to the effect that I should this very day kill myself with starvation. But don't I see Pamphilus with his brother Epignomus? Yes, 'tis he. I'll accost the man. *Goes up to PAMPHILUS.* O longed-for Pamphilus! O my salvation! O my life! O my delight! right welcome. I rejoice that you've returned safe from abroad to your native land. Welcome.

PAMPHILUS
Welcome, Gelasimus.

GELASIMUS
Have you been quite well?

PAMPHILUS
I have taken good care of my health.

GELASIMUS
I' troth, I'm glad of it. I' faith, I confoundedly wish I had now a thousand measures of silver.

EPIGNOMUS
What need have you of it?

GELASIMUS
I' faith, that I might invite him to dinner, and not invite you.

EPIGNOMUS
You are talking against your own interest.

GELASIMUS

This, then, that I might invite you both * * * * * * for my part * * * * * I should not avoid * * * * * * there is nothing so * as this * * * *

EPIGNOMUS
Troth, now, I'd ask you with pleasure, if there were room left.

GELASIMUS
Well, standing, then, I'll gobble down a bit in the scramble.

EPIGNOMUS
No, only this one thing can be done.

GELASIMUS
What?

EPIGNOMUS
When the guests have gone, that then you may come ——

GELASIMUS
Hurra! capital!

EPIGNOMUS
To wash the pots, I mean; not to dinner.

GELASIMUS
The Gods confound you! What say you, Pamphilus?

PAMPHILUS
I' troth, this day I'm engaged to dine elsewhere abroad.

GELASIMUS
How, abroad?

PAMPHILUS
Really abroad, on my word.

GELASIMUS
How the plague do you like, thus wearied, to be supping abroad?

PAMPHILUS
Which do you advise me?

GELASIMUS
Order a dinner to be cooked at home, and word to be sent to him who invited you.

PAMPHILUS
Shall I dine at home, alone?

GELASIMUS
Why, not alone; invite me.

PAMPHILUS
But I'm afraid lest he should scold me, who has been to this expense for my sake.

GELASIMUS
It may easily be excused — only listen to me; do order a dinner to be cooked at home.

EPIGNOMUS
. Not by my advice, indeed, will he act so as to disappoint that person this day.

GELASIMUS
Will you not be off from here? Perhaps you suppose that I don't see what you're about. Do you look to yourself, please. *To PAMPHILUS.* How that fellow is gaping after your property just like a hungry wolf. Don't you know how men are set upon here in the street at night?

PAMPHILUS
So many the more servants will I bid to come and fetch me, that they may protect me.

EPIGNOMUS
He won't stir — he won't stir; because you persuade him so

earnestly not to go out.

GELASIMUS
Do order a dinner to be cooked at home with all speed for me and for yourself and your wife. Troth, if you do so, I don't think you'll say that you are deceived.

PAMPHILUS
So far as that dinner is concerned, Gelasimus, you may be dinnerless to-day.

GELASIMUS
Are you going abroad to dine?

PAMPHILUS
I'm going to dine at my brother's, hard by.

GELASIMUS
Is that fixed?

PAMPHILUS
Fixed.

GELASIMUS
By my troth, I hope you may be struck with a stone this day.

PAMPHILUS
I'm not afraid; I shall go through the garden; I'll not go abroad.

EPIGNOMUS
What say you to that, Gelasimus?

GELASIMUS
You're entertaining your deputies; keep them to yourself.

EPIGNOMUS
Why, faith, 'tis your own business.

GELASIMUS

If, indeed, 'tis my own business, avail yourself of my assistance; invite me.

EPIGNOMUS
By my faith, I see, as I fancy, one place still for yourself only, where you may recline.

PAMPHILUS
Really, I do think it may be managed.

GELASIMUS
O light of the city!

EPIGNOMUS
If you can manage to recline in a small compass.

GELASIMUS
Aye, even between two wedges of iron. As little space as a puppy can lie in, the same will be enough for me.

EPIGNOMUS
I'll beg for it some way or other; come along. *Pulls him along.*

GELASIMUS
What? This way?

EPIGNOMUS
Yes, to prison. For here, indeed, you'll not find any further entertainment. Let's be off, you Pamphilus.

PAMPHILUS
I'll but salute the Gods: then I'll pass through to your house forthwith.

GELASIMUS
What then?

EPIGNOMUS

Why, I said that you might go to prison.

GELASIMUS
Well, if you order it, I'll go there even.

EPIGNOMUS
Immortal Gods! really, by my troth, this fellow might be induced by a dinner or a breakfast to bear extreme torture.

GELASIMUS
Such is my nature; with anything can I struggle much more easily than with hunger.

EPIGNOMUS
I know it: at my house full long enough has this facility of yours been experienced by me * * * * * * while you were the Parasite of myself and my brother, we ruined our fortunes. Now I don't wish you to be made by me from a Gelasimus into a Catagelasimus.
EPIGNOMUS and PAMPHILUS go into their houses.

GELASIMUS
And are you gone now? Surely he is gone. Now have I need of a wise resolution. Both are gone; consider, Gelasimus, what plan you must adopt. * * * * What, I? Yes, you. What, for myself? Yes, for yourself. Don't you see how dear provisions are? Don't you see how the kindness and the heartiness of men have vanished? Don't you see how drolls are set at nought, and how they themselves are sponged upon? By my troth, not a person shall ever behold me alive on the morrow; for, this instant, in-doors will I load my throat with a bulrush dose. And by this I shall not give cause for men to say that I died of hunger. *(Exit.)*

ACT V.

Enter STICHUS, and provisions, a table, and couches on the stage.

STICHUS
Foolishly and unwisely is it done in my opinion, if people are in the habit, if they are expecting a person; of looking out for him; faith, ne doesn't on that account come a bit the faster. I'm now doing that same thing, in looking out for Sagarinus; who, still, for that reason won't come a jot the faster. Troth, I shall just now be taking my place alone, if he doesn't come here. I'll now fetch that cask of wine hither from home, and then I'll take my place. The day, like snow, is melting away apace. *Goes into the house of EPIGNOMUS.*

Enter SAGARINUS.

SAGARINUS
Hail! Athens, thou nurse of Greece; country of my master, hail! How joyously do I behold thee. But I have a wish to see how my mistress and fellow-servant, Stephanium, is faring. For I bade Stichus to give her my regards, and to tell her that I should come to-day, so that she might cook a dinner in good time. But, surely, here's Stichus. *with a cask of wine*

STICHUS
to himself . A clever thing you did, master, when you presented your servant, Stichus, with this gift. O ye immortal Gods! how many delights do I carry, how many smiles, how many jokes, how many a kiss, dancing, dalliance, and good-fellowship.

SAGARINUS
Stichus, how fare you?

STICHUS
Right well, Sagarinus, most delightfully; I'm bringing Dionysus, as my guest and yours. For, i' faith, the dinner's cooked; free range has been given me and you at your house. For at our house there's an

entertainment; your master's dining there with his wife, and Antipho as well; there, too, is my master. This was given me as a present.*Points to the cask.*

SAGARINUS
How? Are you dreaming?

STICHUS
I' faith, I'm telling you the truth.

SAGARINUS
Who then gave you this?

STICHUS
What matters that to you? I wish us this day to wash away everything of foreign climes. Leave them alone; let's now attend to Athens; follow me. Do you at once make haste, and bathe.

SAGARINUS
I have bathed.

STICHUS
Very good follow me, then, this. way in-doors, Sagarinus.

SAGARINUS
Of course, I follow. By mytroth, this beginning pleases me as I return home; a happy omen and augury has met me in my path. *They go into the house of PAMPHILUS.*

Enter STEPHANIUM from the house of EPIGNOMUS.

STEPHANIUM
to the AUDIENCE . I wish that it may appear wondrous to no one of you, Spectators, why I who live there *pointing to the house of PAMPHILUS* am come out hither from this other house: I'll inform you thereon. Just now was I sent for to this house by the back way. For as soon as news was brought that the husbands of these ladies were about to come, we all hurried thither. We attended to laying the

couches, and setting all in order. Still, amid these duties, I had a care for my friends, Stichus and my fellow-servant Sagarinus, that their dinner should be cooked. Stichus has been caterer; but for cooking it, I've appointed one my deputy. Now, I'll be off hence, and attend to my friends, who, I see, are coming here. *Goes into the house of PAMPHILUS.*

Enter STICHUS and SAGARINUS from the house of PAMPHILUS with provisions, a PIPER following.

SAGARINUS
Come, out of doors with you; lead on the procession. Stichus, I appoint you commander of the cask. I'm resolved to prove our banquet in every fashion this day. So may the Gods love me, we are well entertained in being feasted in this place. I will that each person that passes by shall be invited to join the banquet.

STICHUS
Agreed, so long only as, i' faith, each man comes with his own wine; for of this, a mouthful shall be given to no person but ourselves, this day. Eating alone, let's wait upon ourselves.

SAGARINUS
This banquet, for our means, is quite sufficient, with its nuts, beans, figs, a dish of olives, pounded lupines, and a cake.

STICHUS
It better becomes a man who is a slave to bring his expenses within moderation than beyond. Each one to his own station; they, who have wealth at home, drink from cups, goblets, and bowls; we, if we are now drinking from our Samian jug, still build our walls according to our means.

SAGARINUS
But while she who is your mistress and mine is arranging her hair, and bedecking herself, I wish us to have some diversion among ourselves. I appoint you the commander of this feast.

STICHUS
Very aptly does it suggest itself to your mind.

SAGARINUS
Wouldn't we be more suitably entertained like Cynics on benches here, than upon couches?

STICHUS
Aye, but this is far the most pleasant.

SAGARINUS
On which side is each of us to recline by our mistress?

STICHUS
Of course you go to the upper place. And, so that you may understand it, I make a division with you on these terms: consider, and take which province you would even like now to take. *They take their places.*

SAGARINUS
But what's your meaning about this "province?"

STICHUS
Whether you would choose to hold the command over the water or over Bacchus.

SAGARINUS
Over Bacchus, most distinctly. But, in the meantime, general of ours, why stands this goblet here? See how many cups we have drunk.

STICHUS
As many as there are fingers on your hand. The Greek song is, "Drink either your five cups or your three, but not your four."

SAGARINUS
about to drink . I pledge you. Do you take for yourself the tenth part from the fountain, if you are wise. Here's luck to you, luck to us; here's luck to thee, luck to me; luck to our Stephanium as well.

STICHUS
’Tis bravely done. I pledge you in a goblet. *Drinks.*

SAGARINUS
Keep your wine; I’d very much like something by way of a relish.

STICHUS
If you are not satisfied with what’s here, there’s nothing else. Take some water.

SAGARINUS
You say right; I care for no dainties. Drink away, Piper; drink, if you do drink. I’ faith, this must be drunk — don’t shirk it. *Holds the goblet to the PIPER.* Why flinch at what you see must be done by you? Why don’t you drink? Do it, if you are to do it. Take it, I tell you, for the public pays for this. That’s not your way to shirk your drink. Take your pipes out of your mouth. *The PIPER drinks.*

STICHUS
When he has drunk, either do you mind my rules, or else I’ll give up. I don’t wish us to drink this straight out; we shall soon be about nothing; for, by my faith, almost all in a moment, the cask might be turned head downwards.

SAGARINUS
to the PIPER . How now? Although you did make a fuss about it, still it didn’t hurt you. Come, Piper, when you’ve done drinking, put back your pipes to your lips; quickly puff out your cheeks, just like a reptile serpent. Come now, Stichus, whichever of the two breaks order, shall be fined a cup.

STICHUS
You propose a good regulation. You ought to have your way, who only ask what’s fair.

SAGARINUS
Mind it then; if you offend, I’ll forthwith take the forfeit on the spot.

STICHUS
You ask what's quite right and just.

SAGARINUS
pledging STICHUS . Here's to you first of all.

STICHUS
'Tis a droll thing this, for two persons, rivals of each other, to be courting, to be drinking from one goblet, and to be kissing one wench. 'Tis worthy of remark this: I am you, you are I; of one accord are we. With one mistress are we both in love; when she's with me, still she's with you; and when she's with you, she's with me as well; neither of us envies the other.

SAGARINUS
Come, come, there's enough of it; I don't want it overdone to weariness. I'd now like some other sport.

STICHUS
Drink on, if you are drinking.

SAGARINUS
There shall be no skulking in me. But, troth, I've had enough of the feast; would but our mistress come here. If she were here, nothing else would be away.

STICHUS
Should you like us to invite our mistress out? She shall give us a dance.

SAGARINUS
I agree.

STICHUS
calling aloud . My sweet one, my lovely one, my pleasing one, Stephanium, do come out of doors to your sweethearts; to me you are quite charming.

SAGARINUS
But to me, indeed, most charming.

STICHUS
Make us jovial fellows more jovial by your assistance and your company. Returning from abroad, we want you, dear little Stephanium, my honey, that is, if our lovingness is pleasing to you, if we are acceptable to you.

Enter STEPHANIUM, from the house of PAMPHILUS.

STEPHANIUM
I'll indulge you, my dears; but, so may pretty Venus favour me, I should have already come out of doors here together with you, had I not been sprucing myself up for you. For such is the way of woman, when she is well washed, made clean, dressed and tricked out, still is she incomplete; and a female who is a courtesan much more quickly acquires dislike for herself by sluttishness than always keeps in favour through neatness.

STICHUS
That's very cleverly said.

SAGARINUS
'Tis the genuine language of Venus.

STICHUS
Sagarinus.

SAGARINUS
What's the matter?

STICHUS
I'm in pain all over.

SAGARINUS
All over? So much the more unfortunate you.

STEPHANIUM
Where do I take my place?

SAGARINUS
Wherever you please.

STEPHANIUM
I'd like with both of you, for I love you both.

STICHUS
Whack go my savings. I'm done for; freedom has abandoned this person of mine.

STEPHANIUM
Prithee, do give me room, where I may take my place, if, indeed, I am agreable. *She takes her place.* Now I do long to be cozy with you both.

STICHUS
. I'm ruined utterly. What were you saying?

SAGARINUS
Heyday! What's the matter?

STICHUS
So may the Gods favour me, it never shall be otherwise this day but that this girl shall have a dance somehow. Come, my love, my sweet, do dance; I'll dance too. *They rise and dance.*

SAGARINUS
I' faith, you shan't that way get the better of me, but what I'll have a bit of enjoyment, too, that way.

STEPHANIUM
Well, if I must dance, do you then give the Piper something to drink.

STICHUS
Aye, and to me.

SAGARINUS
holds the goblet to the PIPER . Piper, you take first: and after that, if you tipple this off, just as has been your wont before to-day, straightway strike up some merry and amorous tune to dance to, by which we may tingle all over from our very finger nails. Pour some water here.

The PIPER stops playing while he drinks the water.

SAGARINUS
Take this, you; toss it off. The drink didn't please him just now; now at last he takes it with less difficulty. Take it, you. *To STEPHANIUM.* In the meantime, apple of my eye, give me a kiss while he's drinking.

STEPHANIUM
Why, it's the way of a common strumpet, for a damsel to give a kiss standing to her sweetheart as he stands. *She turns away, while he tries to kiss her.*

STICHUS
Bravo! bravo! that's the way it's given to a thief.

SAGARINUS
Come, blow out your cheeks now; something in the amorous way at once. Give us a new tune in return for the old wine.

SAGARINUS
What person in the Ionian or the ballet line is there that can do anything like that? *He capers about.*

STICHUS
If you get the better of me this turn, just challenge me to another.

SAGARINUS
Just you do it in this fashion. *Capers.*

STICHUS

And you in this fashion. *Capers too.*

SAGARINUS
O grand!

STICHUS
O fine!

SAGARINUS
O wonderful!

STICHUS
QUIET!

SAGARINUS
Now, then, both in the same step. *They dance quietly, in the same measure.* I challenge all the dancing-masters to dance against me. 'Tis no more possible for there to be enough of this for us than for there to be too much rain for a mushroom.

STICHUS
(ceasing to dance) Let's away hence in-doors at once now; we've danced long enough for the wine. You, Spectators, give us your applause, and then go home to enjoy yourselves.

TRINUMMUS

Translated by Henry Thomas Riley

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THE SUBJECT.

CHARMIDES, a wealthy Athenian, his property having been much duninished by the reckless conduct of his son, goes abroad. His dissolute son, Lesbonicus, being left behind at Athens, consumes the little resources left him, and then puts up his father's house for sale. At his departure, Charmides has entrusted his interests and the care of his son and daughter to his friend Callicles and has also informed him that in his house there is a treasure buried as a reserve against future contingencies. In order that this may not be lost, Cailicles buys the house of Lesbonicus for a small sum. Ignorant of his reason for doing so, his fellow-citizens censure him for his conduct, and accuse him of a breach of good faith in ministering to the extravagance of Lesbonicus by supplying him with money. For this reason Megaronides expostulates with his friend Callicles, and greatly censures him; on which, Callicles, in self-defence, entrusts him with the secret of the treasure. Charmides having left behind him a grown-up daughter in the care of Callicles, Lysiteles, a young man of rank and character, falls in love with her, and through his father, Philto, asks her in marriage. Her brother, Lesbonicus, is not averse to the match, but refuses to let her marry without giving her a portion; and he offers her to Lysiteles, on condition that he will receive as her marriage-portion a piece of land near the city, the sole remnant of his fortune. This, however, Lysiteles refuses to accept. In the mean time, Callicles, at the suggestion of Megaronides, determines to give the young woman a dowry out of the treasure buried in the house which he has bought; but that Lesbonicus may not suspect whence the money really comes, a Sharper is hired, with instructions to pretend that he brings letters from Charmides with a thousand gold pieces as a portion for his daughter when she should marry. It happens, that while the Sharper is on his way with his pretended errand to the abode of Callicles, Charmides, having unexpectedly returned to Athens, is going towards his house. He meets the Sharper, who discloses his errand and attempts to impose upon Charmides, who thereupon discovers himself Charmides then meets his servant Stasimus, who tells him of the purchase of his house by Callicles,

whereon he conceives himself to have been betrayed by his friend. Afterwards, on discovering the truth, he praises the fidelity of Callicles, and bestows his daughter on Lysiteles, with a portion of a thousand gold pieces, and, at the intercession of Lysiteles, he forgives his son Lesbonicus, and informs him that he is to be married to the daughter of Callicles.

THE ACROSTIC ARGUMENT.

[Supposed to have been written by Priscian the Grammarian.]

CHARMIDES,
going abroad, entrusts a treasure (Thesaurum) secretly hidden, and all his property (Rem), to his friend Callicles. He (Istoc) being absent, his son wantonly squanders his estate. For (Nam) he sells even the house: and Callicles makes purchase of it. His sister, a maiden (Virgo) without a dowry, is asked in marriage. That in a less degree (Minus), with censure, Callicles may bestow on her a dowry, he commissions one (Mandat) to say that he has brought the gold from her father. When (Ut) the Counterfeit has reached the house, the old man (Senex), Charmides, as he has just returned, disappoints him; his children then are married.

Enter LUXURY and POVERTY.

LUXURY.
Follow me this way, daughter, that you may perform your office.

POVERTY.
I am following, but I know not what to say will be the end of our journey.

LUXURY.
'Tis here. See, this is the house. Now go you in. (*Exit POVERTY, who enters the house of CHARMIDES.*)

LUXURY.
to the AUDIENCE . Now, that no one of you may be mistaken, in a few words I will conduct you into the right path, if, indeed, you promise to listen to me. First, then, I will now tell you who I am, and who she is who has gone in here *pointing to the house* , if you give your attention. In the first place, Plautus has given me the name of Luxury, and then he has willed that this Poverty should be my daughter. But why, at my suggestion, she has just entered here, listen

and give attentive ear while I inform you. There is a certain young man who is living in this house; by my assistance he has squandered away his paternal estate. Since I see that there is nothing left for him to support me, I have given him my daughter, together with whom to pass his life. But expect nothing about the plot of this play: the old men who will come hither will disclose the matter to you. The name of this play in the Greek is “The Treasure” [Thesaurus]; Philemon wrote it: Plautus translated it into Latin, and gave it the name of “The Three Pieces of Money” [Trinummus]. Now, he begs this of you, that it may be allowed the play to keep that name. Thus much have I to say. Farewell. Attend in silence. *(Exit.)*

ACT I.

Enter MEGARONIDES.

MEGARONIDES
To reprove one's friend for a fault that deserves it, is a thankless task; but sometimes 'tis useful and 'tis profitable. Therefore, this day will I soundly reprove my friend for a fault that much deserves it. Unwilling am I, did not my friendship bid me do it. For this faultiness has encroached too much upon good morals, so drooping now are nearly all of them. But while they are in this distempered state, bad morals, in the mean time, have sprung up most plenteously, like well-watered plants; nor is there now anything abundant here but these same bad morals. Of them you may now reap a most plenteous harvest: and here a set of men are making the favour of a few of much more value than that in which they may benefit the many. Thus private interests outdo that which is to the public advantage — interests which in many points are a hindrance, and a nuisance, and cause an obstruction both to private and to public welfare.

Enter CALLICLES.

CALLICLES
as he enters . I wish our household God to be graced with a chaplet. Wife *addressing her within* , pay him due respect, that this dwelling may turn out for us prosperous, lucky, happy, and fortunate; and *in a lower voice* that, as soon as I possibly may, I may see you dead and gone.

MEGARONIDES
This is he who in his old age has become a child — who has been guilty of a fault that deserves correction. I will accost the man.

CALLICLES
looking around . Whose voice is it that sounds near me?

MEGARONIDES
Of one who wishes you well, if you are as I desire you to be; but, if you are otherwise, of one who is your enemy, and is angry with you.

CALLICLES
Health to you, O my friend and years'-mate! How are you, Megaronides?

MEGARONIDES
And, i' faith health to you, Callicles! Are you well? Have you been well?

CALLICLES
I am well, and I have been still better.

MEGARONIDES
And how does your wife do? How is she?

CALLICLES
Better than I wish.

MEGARONIDES
'Tis well, i' faith, for you, that she is alive and well

CALLICLES
Troth, I believe that you are glad if I have any misfortune.

MEGARONIDES
That which I have, I wish for all my friends as well.

CALLICLES
Harkye, how does your wife do?

MEGARONIDES
She is immortal; she lives, and is likely to live.

CALLICLES
I' faith, you tell me good news; and I pray the Gods that, surviving

you, she may last out your life.

MEGARONIDES
By my troth! if indeed she were only married to yourself, I could wish it sincerely.

CALLICLES
Do you wish that we should exchange? — that I should take yours, and you mine? I'd be making you not to get a bit the better of the bargain of me.

MEGARONIDES
Indeed, I fancy you would not be surprising me unawares.

CALLICLES
Aye, faith, I should cause you not to be knowing the thing you were about.

MEGARONIDES
Keep what you've got; the evil that we know is the best. But if I were now to take one that I know not, I should not know what to do.

CALLICLES
In good sooth, just as one lives a long life, one lives a happy life.

MEGARONIDES
But give your attention to this, and have done with your joking, for I am come hither to you for a given purpose.

CALLICLES
Why have you come?

MEGARONIDES
That I may rebuke you soundly with many harsh words.

CALLICLES
Me, do you say?

MEGARONIDES
Is there any one else here besides you and me?

CALLICLES
looking about . There is no one.

MEGARONIDES
Why, then, do you ask if 'tis you I mean to rebuke? Unless, indeed, you think that I am about to reprove my own self. For if your former principles now flag in you, or if the manners of the age are working a change in your disposition, and if you preserve not those of the olden time, but are catching up these new ones, you will strike all your friends with a malady so direful, that they will turn sick at seeing and hearing you.

CALLICLES
How comes it into your mind to utter these expressions?

MEGARONIDES
Because it becomes all good men and all good women to have a care to keep suspicion and guilt away from themselves.

CALLICLES
Both cannot be done.

MEGARONIDES
Why so?

CALLICLES
Do you ask? I am the keeper of my own heart so as not to admit guilt there; suspicion is centred in the heart of another. For if now I should suspect that you had stolen the crown from the head of Jupiter in the Capitol, the statue which stands on the highest summit of the temple; if you had not done so, and still it should please me to suspect you, how could you prevent me from suspecting you? But I am anxious to know what this matter is.

MEGARONIDES

Have you any friend or intimate acquaintance whose judgment is correct?

CALLICLES
Troth, I'll tell you without reserve. There are some whom I know to be friends; there are some whom I suspect to be so, but whose dispositions and feelings I am unable to discover, whether they incline to the side of a friend or an enemy; but of my assured friends, you are the most assured. If you know that I have done anything unwittingly or wrongfully, and if you do not accuse me of it, then you yourself will be to blame.

MEGARONIDES
I know it; and if I had come hither to you for any other purpose, you request what is right.

CALLICLES
If you have anything to say, I am waiting for it.

MEGARONIDES
Then, first of all, you are badly spoken of in general conversation by the public. Your fellow-citizens are calling you greedy of grovelling gain; and then, again, there are others who nickname you a vulture, and say that you care but little whether you devour enemies or fellow-citizens. Since I have heard these things said against you, I have, to my misery, been sadly agitated.

CALLICLES
It is, and it is not, in my power, Megaronides: as to their saying this, that is not in my power; as to their saying this deservedly, that is in my power.

MEGARONIDES
Was this Charmides a friend of yours? *He points to the house of CHARMIDES.*

CALLICLES
He both is and he was. That you may believe it to be so, I will tell

you a circumstance as a proof. For after this son of his had squandered away his fortune, and he saw himself being reduced to poverty, and that his daughter was grown up a young woman, and that she who was both her mother and his own wife was dead; as he himself was about to go hence to Seleueia he committed to my charge the maiden his daughter, and all his property, and that profligate son. These, I think, he would not have entrusted to me if he had been unfriendly to me.

MEGARONIDES
What say you as to the young man, who you see to be thus profligate, and who has been entrusted to your care and confidence? Why do you not reform him? Why do you not train him to frugal habits? It would have been somewhat more just for you to give attention to that matter, if you could have somehow made him a better man, and not for you yourself to be a party to the same disreputable conduct, and share your dishonour with his disgrace?

CALLICLES
What have I done?

MEGARONIDES
That which a bad man would do.

CALLICLES
That is no name of mine.

MEGARONIDES
Have you not bought this house from that young man? *A pause.* Why are you silent? This, where you yourself are now living. *He points to the house of CHARMIDES.*

CALLICLES
I did buy it, and I gave the money for it, — forty minæ, to the young man himself, into his own hand.

MEGARONIDES
You gave the money, do you say?

CALLICLES
’Twas done; and I am not sorry ’twas done.

MEGARONIDES
I’ faith — a young man committed to untrusty keeping. Have you not by these means given him a sword with which to slay himself? For, prithee, what else is it, your giving ready money to a young man who loves women, and weak in intellect, with which to complete his edifice of folly which he had already commenced?

CALLICLES
Ought I not to have paid him the money?

MEGARONIDES
You ought not to have paid him; nor ought you either to have bought anything of or sold anything to him; nor should you have provided him with the means of becoming worse. Have you not taken in the person who was entrusted to you? Have you not driven out of his house the man who entrusted him to you? By my faith, a pretty trust, and a faithful guardianship! Leave him to take care of himself; he would manage his own affairs much better.

CALLICLES
You overpower me, Megaronides, with your accusations, in a manner so strange, that what was privately entrusted to my secrecy, fidelity, and constancy, for me to tell it to no one, nor make it public, the same I am now compelled to entrust to you.

MEGARONIDES
Whatever you shall entrust to me, you shall take up the same where you have laid it down.

CALLICLES
Look round you, then, that no overlooker may be near us *MEGARONIDES looks on every side* ; and look around every now and then, I beg of you.

MEGARONIDES

I am listening if you have aught to say.

CALLICLES
If you will be silent, I will speak. At the time when Charmides set out hence for foreign parts, he showed me a treasure in this house, here in a certain closet —— *He starts as if he hears a noise.* But do look around.

MEGARONIDES
There is no one.

CALLICLES
Of Philippean pieces to the number of three thousand. Alone with myself, in tears, he entreated me, by our friendship and by my honour, not to entrust this to his son, nor yet to any one, from whom that might come to his knowledge. Now, if he comes back hither safe, I will restore to him his own. But if anything should happen to him, at all events I have a stock from which to give a marriage-portion to his daughter, who has been entrusted to me, that I may settle her in a condition of life that befits her.

MEGARONIDES
O ye immortal gods! how soon, in a few words, you have made another man of me; I came to you quite a different person. But, as you have begun, proceed further to inform me.

CALLICLES
What shall I tell you? How that this worthless fellow had almost utterly ruined his caution and my own trustiness and all the secret.

MEGARONIDES
How so?

CALLICLES
Because, while I was in the country for only six days, in my absence and without my knowledge, without consulting me, he advertised with bills this house for sale.

MEGARONIDES
The wolf hungered the more, and opened his mouth the wider; he watched till the dog went to sleep; and intended to carry off the whole entire flock.

CALLICLES
I' faith, he would have done it, if the dogs had not perceived this in time. But now, in my turn, I wish to ask you this: let me know what it was my duty for me to do. Whether was it right for me to discover the treasure to him, against which very thing his father had cautioned me, or should I have permitted another person to become the owner of this house? Ought that money to have belonged to him who bought the house? In preference, I myself bought the house; I gave the money for the sake of the treasure, that I might deliver it safe to my friend. I have not, then, bought this house either for myself or for my own use; for Charmides have I bought it back again; from my own store have I paid the money. This, whether it has been done rightfully or wrongfully, I own, Megaronides, that I have done. Here, then, are my misdeeds; here, then, is my avarice. Is it for these things that they spread false reports against me?

MEGARONIDES
Stay — you have overcome your corrector. You have tied my tongue; there is nothing for me to say in answer.

CALLICLES
Now I entreat you to aid me with your assistance and counsel, and to share this duty of mine in common with me.

MEGARONIDES
I promise you my assistance.

CALLICLES
Where, then, will you be a short time hence?

MEGARONIDES
At home.

CALLICLES
Do you wish anything else?

MEGARONIDES
Attend to the trust reposed in you.

CALLICLES
That is being carefully done.

MEGARONIDES
But how say you —— ?

CALLICLES
What do you want?

MEGARONIDES
Where is the young man living now?

CALLICLES
This back part of the building he retained when he sold the house.

MEGARONIDES
That I wanted to know. Now, then, go at once. But what say you, where is the damsel now? She is at your house, I suppose?

CALLICLES
She is so; I take care of her almost as much as of my own daughter.

MEGARONIDES
You act properly.

CALLICLES
Before I go away, are you going to ask me anything else?

MEGARONIDES
Farewell. *Exit CALLICLES.* Really, there is nothing more foolish or more stupid, nothing more lying or indeed more tattling, more self-conceited or more forsworn, than those men of this city everlastingly

gossiping about, whom they call Busybodies. And thus have I enlisted myself in their ranks together with them; who have been the swallower of the false tales of those who pretend that they know everything, and yet know nothing. They know, forsooth, what each person either has in his mind, or is likely to have; they know what the king whispered in the ear of the queen; they know what Juno talked about in conversation with Jupiter; that which neither is nor is likely to be, do these fellows know. Whether they praise or dispraise any one they please, falsely or truly, they care not a straw, so they know that which they choose to know. All people were in the habit of saying that this Callicles was unworthy of this state, and, himself, to exist, who had despoiled this young man of his property. From the reports of these tale-bearers, in my ignorance I rushed forward to rebuke my guiltless friend. But if the authority was always required from the foundation, upon which they speak of anything they have heard, unless that clearly appeared, the matter ought to be to the peril and loss of the tale-bearer. If this were so, it would be for the public benefit. I would cause those to be but few, who now that which they do not know, and I would make them have their silly chattering more restricted. *(Exit.)*

ACT II.

Enter LYSITELES.

LYSITELES
I am revolving many things in my mind at once, and much uneasiness do I find in thinking upon them. I tease, and fret, and wear myself out; a mind that enjoins a hard task is now my master. But this thing is not clear to me, nor has it been enough studied by me, which pursuit of these two I should rather follow for myself; which of the two I should think of the greater stability for passing my life therein: whether it were preferable for me to devote myself to love or to aggrandisement; in which alternative there is more enjoyment of life in passing one's days. On this point I am not fully satisfied. But this I think I'll do, that I may weigh both the points together, I must be both judge and culprit in this trial: I'll do so — I like it much. First of all, I will enlarge upon the pursuits of love, how they conduce to one's welfare. Love never expects any but the willing man to throw himself in his toils; these he seeks for, these he follows up, and craftily counsels against their interests. He is a fawning flatterer, a rapacious grappler, a deceiver, a sweet-tooth, a spoiler, a corrupter of men who court retirement, a pryer into secrets. For he that is in love, soon as ever he has been smitten with the kisses of the object that he loves, forthwith his substance vanishes out of doors and melts away. "Give me this thing, my honey, if you love me, if you possibly can." And then this gudgeon says: "O apple of my eye, be it so: both that shall be given you, and still more, if you wish it to be given." Then does she strike while he is wavering; and now she begs for more. Not enough is this evil, unless there is still something more — what to eat, what to drink. A thing that creates a further expense, the favour of a night is granted; a whole family is then introduced for her — a wardrobe-woman a perfume-keeper, a cofferer, fan-bearers, sandal-bearers, singing-girls, casket-keepers, messengers, news-carriers, so many wasters of his bread and substance. The lover himself, while to them he is complaisant, becomes a beggar. When I revolve these things in my mind, and

when I reflect how little one is valued when he is in need; away with you, Love — I like you not — no converse do I hold with you. Although 'tis sweet to feast and to carouse, Love still gives bitters enough to be distasteful. He avoids the Courts of justice, he drives away your relations, and drives yourself away from your own contemplation. Nor do men wish that he should be called their friend. In a thousand ways is Love to be held a stranger, to be kept at a distance, and to be wholly abstained from. For he who plunges into love, perishes more dreadfully than if he leapt from a rock. Away with you, Love, if you please; keep your owns property to yourself. Love, never be you a friend of mine; some there are, however, whom, in their misery, you may keep miserable and wretched — those whom you have easily rendered submissive to yourself. My fixed determination is to apply my mind to my advancement in life, although, in that, great labour is undergone by the mind. Good men wish these things for themselves, gain, credit, and honour, glory, and esteem; these are the rewards of the upright. It delights me, then, the more, to live together with the upright rather than with the deceitful promulgators of lies.

Enter PHILTO.

PHILTO
looking about . Where has this man betaken himself out of doors from the house?

LYSITELES
coming up to him . I am here, father; command me what you will, and I shall cause no delay to you, nor will I hide myself in any skulking-place out of your sight.

PHILTO
You will be doing what is consonant to the rest of your conduct if you reverence your father. By your duty to me, my son, I wish you, for my sake, not to hold any converse with profligate men, either in the street or in the Forum. I know this age — what its manners are. The bad man wishes the good man to be bad, that he may be like

himself. The wicked, the rapacious, the covetous, and the envious, disorder and confound the morals of the age: a crew gaping for gain, they hold the sacred thing as profane — the public advantage as the private emolument. At these things do I grieve, these are the matters that torment me. These things am I constantly repeating both day and night, that you may use due precaution against them. They only deem it right to keep their hands off that which they cannot touch with their hands; as to the rest, seize it, carry it off, keep it, be off and go hide, that is the word with them. These things, when I behold them, draw tears from me, because I have survived to see such a race of men. Why have I not rather descended to the dead ere this? For these men praise the manners of our ancestors, and defile those same persons whom they commend. With regard, then, to these pursuits, I enjoin you not to taint your disposition with them. Live after my fashion, and according to the ancient manners; what I am prescribing to you, the same do you remember and practise. I have no patience with these fashionable manners, upsetting preconceived notions, with which good men are now disgracing themselves. If you follow these my injunctions to you, many a good maxim will take root in your breast.

LYSITELES
From my earliest youth, even up to this present age, I have always, father, paid all submission to the injunctions you have given. So far as my nature was concerned, I considered that I was free; so far as your injunctions were concerned, I deemed it proper that my mind should pay all submission to you.

PHILTO
The man who is struggling with his inclination from his earliest age, whether he ought to prefer to be so, as his inclination thinks it proper that he should be, or whether, rather so as his parents and his relations wish him to be — if his inclination conquers that man, it is all over with him; he is the slave of his inclination and not of himself. But if he conquers his inclination, he truly lives and shall be famed as a conqueror of conquerors. If you have conquered your inclination rather than your inclination you, you have reason to

rejoice. 'Tis better by far that you should be such as you ought to be, than such as pleases your inclination. Those who conquer the inclination will ever be esteemed better men than those whom the inclination subdues.

LYSITELES
I have ever esteemed these maxims as the shield of my youthful age; never to betake myself to any place where vice was the order of the day, never to go to stroll about at night, nor to take from another that which is his. I have taken all precautions, my father, that I might not cause you uneasiness; I have ever kept your precepts in due preservation by my own rule of conduct.

PHILTO
And do you reproach me, because you have acted aright? For yourself have you done so, not for me: my life, indeed, is nearly past; this matter principally concerns your own. Keep on overlaying good deeds with other good deeds, that the rain may not come through. He is the upright man who is not content with it, however upright and however honest he may chance to be. He who readily gives satisfaction to himself, is not the upright man, nor is he really honest: he who thinks but meanly of himself, in him is there a tendency to well-doing.

LYSITELES
For this reason, father, I have thought that since there is a certain thing that I wish for, I would request it of you.

PHILTO
What is it? I am already longing to give assent.

LYSITELES
A young man here, of noble family, my friend and years' mate, who has managed his own affairs but heedlessly and unthinkingly — I wish, father, to do him a service, if you are not unwilling.

PHILTO
From your own means, I suppose?

LYSITELES
From my own means — for what is yours is mine, and all mine is yours.

PHILTO
What is he doing? Is he in want?

LYSITELES
He is in want.

PHILTO
Had he property?

LYSITELES
He had.

PHILTO
How did he lose it? Was he connected with public business, or with commercial matters? Had he merchandise or wares to sell, when he lost his property?

LYSITELES
None of these.

PHILTO
What then?

LYSITELES
I' faith, my father, by his good-nature. Besides, to indulge his tastes, he wasted some part of it in luxury.

PHILTO
By my troth now! a fellow spoken of boldly, and as on familiar terms; — one, indeed, who has never dissipated his fortune by any good means, and is now in want. I cannot brook that, with qualities of that description, he should be your friend.

LYSITELES

’Tis because he is without any bad disposition that I wish to relieve his wants.

PHILTO
He deserves ill of a beggar who gives him what to eat or to drink; for he both loses that which he gives and prolongs for the other a life of misery. I do not say this because I am unwilling and would not readily do what you desire; but when I apply these expressions to that same person, I am warning you beforehand, so to have compassion on others, that others may not have to pity you.

LYSITELES
I am ashamed to desert him, and to deny him aid in his adversity.

PHILTO
I’ troth, shame is preferable to repentance by just as many letters as it consists of.

LYSITELES
In good sooth, father, by the care of the Gods, and of my forefathers, and your own, I may say that we possess much property, honestly obtained. If you do a service to a friend, it ought not to make you repent that you have done so; it ought rather to cause you shame if you do not do it.

PHILTO
If from great wealth you subtract something, does it become more or less?

LYSITELES
Less, father. But do you know what is wont to be repeated to the niggardly citizen? “That which thou hast mayst thou not have, and mayst thou have that misfortune which thou hast not; since thou canst neither endure it to be enjoyed by thyself nor by another.”

PHILTO
I know, indeed, that so it usually is: but, my son, he is the truly niggardly man that has nought with which to pay his dues.

LYSITELES
By the care of the Gods, we have, father, both enough for us to enjoy ourselves, and with which to do kind offices to kind-hearted men.

PHILTO
Troth, I am not able to refuse you anything that you; ask of me. Whose poverty do you wish to relieve? Speak out boldly to your father.

LYSITELES
That of this young man Lesbonicus, the son of Charmides, who lives there. *He points to the house of CHARMIDES.*

PHILTO
Why, hasn't he devoured both what he had, and what he had not?

LYSITELES
Censure him not, my father: many things happen to a man which he likes, many, too, which he does not like.

PHILTO
Troth, you say falsely, son; and you are doing so now not according to your usual wont. For the prudent man, i' faith, really frames his own fortunes for himself: many things, therefore, do not happen which he does not like, unless he is a bungling workman.

LYSITELES
Much labour is requisite for this workmanship in him who seeks to be a clever workman in fashioning his life — but he is still very young.

PHILTO
Not by years but by disposition is wisdom acquired. Age is the relish of wisdom — wisdom is the nutriment of old age. However, come, say what you wish now to give him.

LYSITELES
Nothing at all, father. Do you only not hinder me from accepting it if

he should give anything to me.

PHILTO
And will you be relieving his poverty by that, if you shall accept anything of him?

LYSITELES
By that very means, my father.

PHILTO
Faith, I wish that you would instruct me in that method.

LYSITELES
Certainly. Do you know of what family he is born?

PHILTO
I know — of an extremely honourable one.

LYSITELES
He has a sister — a fine young woman now grown up: I wish, father, to take her without a portion for my wife.

PHILTO
A wife without a portion?

LYSITELES
Just so — your riches saved as well. By these means you will be conferring an extreme favour on him, and in no way could you help him to greater advantage.

PHILTO
Am I to suffer you to take a wife without a portion?

LYSITELES
You must suffer it, father; and by these means you will be giving an estimable character to our family.

PHILTO

I could give utterance to many a learned saying, and very fluently too: this old age of mine retains stories of old and ancient times. But, since I see that you are courting friendship and esteem for our family, although I have been opposed to you, I thus give my decision — I will permit you; ask for the girl, and marry her.

LYSITELES
May the Gods preserve you to me. But, to this favour add one thing.

PHILTO
But what is this one thing?

LYSITELES
I will tell you. Do you go to him, do you solicit him, and do you ask for her yourself.

PHILTO
Think of that now.

LYSITELES
You will transact it much more speedily: all will be made sure of that you do. One word of yours in this matter will be of more consequence than a hundred of mine.

PHILTO
See, now, how, in my kindness, I have undertaken this matter. My assistance shall be given.

LYSITELES
You really are a kind father. This is the house here he dwells. *He points to the house of CHARMIDES.* Lesbonicus is his name. Mind and attend to the business; I will await you at home. *(Exit.)*

PHILTO, alone.

PHILTO
These things are not for the best, nor as I think they ought to be; but still, they are better than that which is downright bad. But this one

circumstance consoles myself and my thoughts-namely, that he who counsels in respect to a son nothing else but that which pleases himself alone, only plays the fool; he becomes wretched in mind, and yet he is no nearer bringing it about. He is preparing a very inclement winter for his own old age when he arouses that unseasonable storm. *The door of the house of CHARMIDES opens.* But the house is opened to which I was going; most conveniently, Lesbonicus himself is coming out of doors with his servant. *PHILTO retires to a distance.*

Enter LESBONICUS and STASIMUS.

LESBONICUS
'Tis less than fifteen days since you received from Callicles forty minæ for this house; is it not as I say, Stasimus?

STASIMUS
When I consider, I think I remember that it was so.

LESBONICUS
What has been done with it?

STASIMUS
It has been eaten and drunk up — spent away in unguents, washed away in baths. The fishmonger and the baker have carried it off: butchers, too, and cooks, green-grocers, perfumers, and poulterers; 'twas quickly consumed. I' faith! that money was made away with not less speedily than if you were to throw a poppy among the ants.

LESBONICUS
By my troth, less has been spent on those items than six minæ?

STASIMUS
Besides, what have you given to your mistresses?

LESBONICUS
That I am including as well in it.

STASIMUS
Besides, what have I pilfered of it?

LESBONICUS
Aye, that item is a very heavy one.

STASIMUS
That cannot so appear to you, if you make all due deductions, unless you think that your money is everlasting. *Aside.* Too late and unwisely, — a caution that should have been used before, — after he has devoured his substance, he reckons up the account too late.

LESBONICUS
The account, however, of this money is by no means clear.

STASIMUS
I' faith, the account is very clear: the money's gone. Did you not receive forty minæ from Callicles, and did he not receive from you the house in possession?

LESBONICUS
Very good.

PHILTO
aside . Troth, I think our neighbour has sold his house. When his father shall come from abroad, his place is in the beggar's gate, unless, perchance, he should creep into his son's stomach.

STASIMUS
There were a thousand Olympic drachmæ paid to the banker, which you were owing upon account.

LESBONICUS
Those, I suppose, that I was security for?

STASIMUS
Say, rather, "Those that I paid down" — for that young man whom you used to say was so rich.

LESBONICUS
It was so done.

STASIMUS
Yes, just to be squandered away.

LESBONICUS
That was done as well. But I saw him in a pitiable state, and I did have pity on him.

STASIMUS
You have pity on others, and you have neither pity nor shame for yourself.

PHILTO
aside . 'Tis time to accost him.

LESBONICUS
Is this Philto that is coming here? Troth, 'tis he himself.

STASIMUS
I' faith, I could wish he was my slave, together with his savings.

PHILTO
Philto right heartily wishes health to both master and servant, Lesbonicus and Stasimus.

LESBONICUS
May the Gods give you, Philto, whatever you may wish for. How is your son?

PHILTO
He wishes well to you.

LESBONICUS
In good sooth, he does for me what I do for him in return!

STASIMUS

aside . That phrase, “He wishes well,” is worthless, unless a person does well too. I, too, “wish” to be a free man; I wish in vain. He, perhaps, might wish to become frugal; he would wish to no purpose.

PHILTO
My son has sent me to you to propose an alliance and bond of friendship between himself and your family. He wishes to take your sister for his wife; and I have the same feelings, and I desire it.

LESBONICUS
I really don’t understand your ways; amid your prosperity you are laughing at my adversity.

PHILTO
I am a man: you are a man. So may Jupiter love me, I have neither come to laugh at you, nor do I think you deserving of it! But as to what I said, my son begged me to ask for your sister as his wife.

LESBONICUS
It is right that I should know the state of my own circumstances. My position is not on an equal footing with yours; seek some other alliance for yourselves.

STASIMUS
to LESBONICUS . Are you really sound in mind or intellect to refuse this proposal? For I perceive that he has been found for you a very friend in need.

LESBONICUS
Get away hence, and go hang yourself.

STASIMUS
Faith, if I should commence to go, you would be forbidding me.

LESBONICUS
Unless you want me, Philto, for anything else, I have given you my answer.

PHILTO
I trust, Lesbonicus, that you will one day be more obliging to me than I now find you to be. For both to act unwisely and to talk unwisely, Lesbonicus, are sometimes neither of them profitable.

STASIMUS
Troth, he says what's true.

LESBONICUS
I will tear out your eye if you add one word.

STASIMUS
Troth, but I will talk; for if I may not be allowed to do so as I am, then I will submit to be called the one-eyed man.

PHILTO
Do you now say this, that your position and means are not on an equal footing with ours?

LESBONICUS
I do say so.

PHILTO
Well, suppose, now, you were to come to a building to a public banquet, and a wealthy man by chance were to come there as your neighbour. The banquet is set on table, one that they style a public one. Suppose that dainties were heaped up before him by his dependents, and suppose any-thing pleased you that was so heaped up before him, would you eat, or would you keep your place next to this wealthy man, going without your dinner?

LESBONICUS
I should eat, unless he were to forbid me doing so.

STASIMUS
But I, by my faith, even if he were to forbid me, would eat and cram with both cheeks stuffed out; and what pleased him, that, in especial, would I lay hold of beforehand; nor would I yield to him one jot of

my very existence. At table it befits no one to be bashful; for there the decision is about things both divine and human.

PHILTO
You say what is the fact.

STASIMUS
I will tell you without any subterfuge: I would make place for him on the highway, on the footpath, in the canvass for public honors; but as to what concerns the stomach — by my troth, not this much *shows the breadth of his finger-nail* , unless he should first have thrashed me with his fists. With provisions at the present prices, a feast is a fortune without incumbrances.

PHILTO
Always, Lesbonicus, do you take care and think this, that that is the best, according as you yourself are the most deserving: if that you cannot attain to, at least be as near as possible to the most deserving. And now, Lesbonicus, I wish you to grant and accept these terms which I propose, and which I ask of you. The Gods are rich; wealth and station befit the Gods: but we poor mortal beings are, as it were, the salt-cellar for the salt of life. The moment that we have breathed forth this, the beggar is held of equal value at Acheron with the most wealthy man when dead.

STASIMUS
aside . It will be a wonder if you don't carry your riches there with you. When you are dead, you may, perhaps, be as good as your name imports.

PHILTO
Now, that you may understand that position and means have no place here, and that we do not undervalue your alliance; I ask for your sister without a marriage-portion. May the matter turn out happily. Do I understand her to be promised? Why are you silent?

STASIMUS
O immortal Gods, what a proposal!

PHILTO
Why don't you say, "May the Gods prosper it, I agree?"

STASIMUS
aside . Alas! when there was no advantage in the expression, he used to say, "I agree;" now, when there is advantage in it, he is not able to say so.

LESBONICUS
Since you think me, Philto, worthy of an alliance with you, I return you many thanks. But though this fortune of mine has sadly diminished through my folly, I have, Philto, a piece of land near the city here; that I will give as a portion to my sister: for, after all my follies, that alone, besides my existence, is left me.

PHILTO
Really I care nothing at all about a portion.

LESBONICUS
I am determined to give her one.

STASIMUS
whispers to LESBONICUS . And are you ready, master, to sever that nurse from us which is supporting us? Take care how you do it. What are we ourselves to eat in future?

LESBONICUS
to STASIMUS . Once more, will you hold your tongue? Am I to be rendered accountable to you?

STASIMUS
aside . We are evidently done for, unless I devise something or other. Philto, I want you. *He remeoves to a distance, and beckons to PHILTO.*

PHILTO
If you wish aught, Stasimus.

STASIMUS
Step a little this way.

PHILTO
By all means.

STASIMUS
I tell you this in secrecy, that neither he nor any one else may learn it of you.

PHILTO
Trust me boldly with anything you please.

STASIMUS
By Gods and men I warn you, not to allow that piece of land ever to become yours or your son's. I'll tell you my reasons for this matter.

PHILTO
Troth, I should like to hear them.

STASIMUS
First of all then, when at any time the ground is being ploughed, in every fifth furrow the oxen die.

PHILTO
Preserve me from it.

STASIMUS
The gate of Acheron is in that land of ours. Then the grapes, before they are ripe, hang in a putrid state.

LESBONICUS
in a low voice . He is persuading the man to something, I think. Although he is a rogue, still he is not unfaithful to me.

STASIMUS
Hear the rest. Besides that, when elsewhere the harvest of wheat is most abundant, there it comes up less by one-fourth than what you

have sowed.

PHILTO
Ah! bad habits ought to be sown on that spot, if in the sowing they can be killed.

STASIMUS
And never is there any person to whom that piece of land belongs, but that his affairs turn out most unfortunate. Of those to whom it has belonged, some have gone away in banishment; some are dead outright; some, again, have hanged themselves. See this man, now, to whom it belongs, how he has been brought to a regular backgammoned state.

PHILTO
Preserve me from this piece of land.

STASIMUS
"Preserve me from it," you would say still more, if you were to hear everything from me. For there every other tree has been blasted with lightning; the hogs die there most shockingly of inflammation in the throat; the sheep are scabby, as bare of all wool, see, as is this hand of mine. And then, besides, there is not one of the Syrian natives, a race which is the most hardy of men, who could exist there for six months; so surely do all die there of the solstitial fever.

PHILTO
I believe, Stasimus, that it is so; but the Campanian race much outdoes that of the Syrians in hardiness. But, really, that piece of land, as I have heard you describe it, is one to which it were proper for all wicked men to be sent for the public good. Just as they tell of the Islands of the Blest, where all meet together who have passed their lives uprightly: on the other hand, it seems proper that all evildoers should be packed off there, since it is a place of such a character.

STASIMUS
'Tis a very receptacle of calamity. What need is there of many

words? Look for any bad thing whatsoever, there you may find it.

PHILTO
But, i' faith, you may find it there and elsewhere too.

STASIMUS
Please, take care not to say that I told you of this.

PHILTO
You have told it me in perfect secrecy.

STASIMUS
For he, indeed *pointing at LESBONICUS* , wishes it to be got rid of from himself, if he can find any one to impose upon about it.

PHILTO
I' faith, this land shall never become my property.

STASIMUS
Aye, if you keep in your senses. *Aside.* I' faith, I have cleverly frightened the old fellow away from this land; for, if my master had parted with it, there is nothing for us to live upon.

PHILTO
Lesbonicus, I now return to you.

LESBONICUS
Tell me, if you please, what has he been saying to you?

PHILTO
What do you suppose? He is a man; he wishes to become a free man, but he has not the money to give.

LESBONICUS
And I wish to be rich, but all in vain.

STASIMUS
aside . You might have been, if you had chosen; now, since you have

nothing, you cannot be.

LESBONICUS
What are you talking about to yourself, Stasimus?

STASIMUS
About that which you were saying just now: if you had chosen formerly, you might have been rich; now you are wishing too late.

PHILTO
No terms can be come to with me about the marriage-portion; whatever pleases you, do you transact it yourself with my son. Now, I ask for your sister for my son; and may the matter turn out well. What now? are you still considering?

LESBONICUS
What — about that matter? Since you will have it so — may the Gods prosper it — I promise her.

PHILTO
Never, by my troth, was a son born so ardently longed for by any one, as was that expression "I promise her," when born for me.

STASIMUS
The Gods will prosper all your plans.

PHILTO
So I wish. Come this way with me, Lesbonicus, that a day may be agreed on for the nuptials, in the presence of Lysiteles: this agreement we will ratify on that same day. *(Exit PHILTO.)*

LESBONICUS
Now, Stasimus, go you there *points to the house which he has sold to CALLICLES* to the house of Callicles, to my sister; tell her how this matter has been arranged.

STASIMUS
I will go.

LESBONICUS
And congratulate my sister.

STASIMUS
Very well.

LESBONICUS
Tell Callicles to meet me ——

STASIMUS
But rather do you go now ——

LESBONICUS
That he may see what is necessary to be done about the portion.

STASIMUS
Do go now.

LESBONICUS
For I have determined not to give her without a portion.

STASIMUS
But rather do you go now.

LESBONICUS
And I will never allow it to be a detriment to her by reason of ——

STASIMUS
Do be off now.

LESBONICUS
My recklessness ——

STASIMUS
Do go now.

LESBONICUS
It seems by no means just, but that, since I have done wrong ——

STASIMUS
Do go now.

LESBONICUS
It should be chiefly a detriment to myself.

STASIMUS
Do go now.

LESBONICUS
O my father! and shall I ever see you again?

STASIMUS
Do go now. Go — go now.

LESBONICUS
I am going. Do you take care of that which I have asked you. I shall be here directly. *(Exit LESBONICUS.)*

STASIMUS
At length I have prevailed on him to go. In the name of the immortal Gods, i' faith, 'tis a matter well managed by wrongful means of performance, inasmuch as our piece of land is safe; although even now 'tis still a very doubtful matter what may be the result of this affair. But, if the land is parted with, 'tis all over with my neck; I must carry a buckler in foreign lands, a helmet too, and my baggage. He will be running away from the city when the nuptials have been celebrated; he will be going hence to extreme and utter ruin, somewhere or other, to serve as a soldier, either to Asia or to Cilicia. I will go there *looking at the door of the house bought by CALLICLES* , where he has ordered me to go, although I detest this house ever since he has driven us out of our abode. *(Exit into the house of CHARMIDES.)*

ACT III.

Enter CALLICLES and STASIMUS.

CALLICLES
To what effect were you speaking about this, Stasimus?

STASIMUS
That Lesbonicus, the son of my master, has betrothed his sister; in those terms.

CALLICLES
To what person has he betrothed her?

STASIMUS
To Lysiteles, the son of Philto; without a portion, too.

CALLICLES
Without a portion, will he marry her into a family so rich? You are telling me a thing not to be credited.

STASIMUS
Why, faith, you would be for never believing. If you don't believe this, at all events I shall be believing ——

CALLICLES
What?

STASIMUS
That I don't care a fig for your belief.

CALLICLES
How long since, or where, was this matter agreed to?

STASIMUS
On this very spot — here, before his door *pointing to PHILTO'S house* . This moment-like, as the man of Præneste says.

CALLICLES
And has Lesbonicus, amid his ruined fortunes, become so much more frugal than in his prosperous circumstances?

STASIMUS
Why, in fact, Philto himself came of his own accord to make the offer for his son.

CALLICLES
aside. By my troth, it really will be a disgrace, if a portion is not given to the maiden. In fine, I think, i' faith, that that matter concerns myself. I will go to my corrector, and will ask advice of him. *(Exit.)*

STASIMUS
I pretty nearly guess, and I have a strong suspicion, why he makes such speed on this: namely, that he may turn Lesbonicus out of his bit of land, after he has turned him out of his house. O Charmides, my master! since your property here is being torn to pieces in your absence, I wish I could see you return safe, that you might both take vengeance on your enemies, and give the reward to me according as I have behaved, and do behave towards you. 'Tis an extremely difficult thing for a friend to be found really such as the name imports, to whom, when you have entrusted your interests, you may sleep without any care. But lo! I perceive our son-in-law coming, together with his neighbour. Something — what, I know not — is wrong between them. They are walking, each with a hasty step; the one is catching the other that is before him by the cloak. They have come to a stop in no very courteous fashion. I'll step aside here a little distance. I have a wish to hear the conversation of these two that are to be connected by marriage. *He retires to a distance.*

Enter LYSITELES and LESBONICUS.

LYSITELES
Stay, this moment; don't turn away, and don't hide yourself from me. *He catches hold of his cloak.*

LESBONICUS

(shaking him off) Can't you allow me to go whither I was proceeding?

LYSITELES
If, Lesbonicus, it seems to be to your interest, either for your glory or for your honour, I will let you go.

LESBONICUS
You are doing a thing that it is very easy to do.

LYSITELES
What is that?

LESBONICUS
An injury to a friend.

LYSITELES
It is no way of mine, and I have not learned so to do.

LESBONICUS
Untaught as you are, how cleverly you do it. What would you have done, if any one had taught you to be thus annoying to me? You, who, when you pretend to be acting kindly to me, use me ill, and are intending evil.

LYSITELES
What! — I?

LESBONICUS
Yes — you.

LYSITELES
How do I use you ill?

LESBONICUS
Inasmuch as you do that which I do not wish.

LYSITELES

I wish to consult your advantage.

LESBONICUS
Are you kinder to me than I am to myself? I have sense enough; I see sufficiently well those things that are for my own advantage.

LYSITELES
And is it having sense enough to refuse a kindness from a well-wisher?

LESBONICUS
I reckon it to be no kindness, when it does not please him on whom you are conferring it. I know, and I understand myself what I am doing, and my mind forsakes not its duty; nor will I be driven by your speeches from paying due regard to my own character.

LYSITELES
What do you say? For now I cannot be restrained from saying to you the things which you deserve. Have your forefathers, I pray, so handed down this reputation to you, that you, by your excesses, might lose what before was gained by their merit, and that you might become a bar to the honour of your own posterity? Your father and your grandfather made an easy and a level path for you to attain to honour; whereas you have made it to become a difficult one, by your extreme recklessness and sloth, and your besotted ways. You have made your election, to prefer your passions to virtue. Now, do you suppose that you can cover over your faults by these means? Alas! 'tis impossible. Welcome virtue to your mind, if you please, and expel slothfulness from your heart. Give your attention to your he-friends in the Courts of justice, and not to the couch of your she-friend, as you are wont to do. And earnestly do I now wish this piece of land to be left to you for this reason, that you may have wherewithal to reform yourself; so that those citizens, whom you have for enemies, may not be able altogether to throw your poverty in your teeth.

LESBONICUS

All these things which you have been saying, I know — could even set my seal to them: how I have spoiled my patrimonial estate and the fair fame of my forefathers. I knew how it became me to live; to my misfortune I was not able to act accordingly. Thus, overpowered by the force of passion, inclined to ease, I fell into the snare; and now to you, quite as you deserve, I do return most hearty thanks.

LYSITELES
Still, I cannot suffer my labour to be thus lost, and yourself to despise these words; at the same time, it grieves me that you have so little shame. And, in fine, unless you listen to me, and do this that I mention, you yourself will easily lie concealed behind your own self, so that honour cannot find you; when you will wish yourself to be especially distinguished, you will be lying in obscurity. I know right well, for my part, Lesbonicus, your highly ingenuous disposition; I know that of your own accord you have not done wrong, but that it is Love that has blinded your heart; and I myself comprehend all the ways of Love. As the charge of the balista is hurled, so is Love; nothing is there so swift, or that so swiftly flies; he, too, makes the manners of men both foolish and froward. That which is the most commended pleases him the least; that from which he is dissuaded pleases him. When there is a scarcity, then you long for a thing; when there is an abundance of it, then you don't care for it. The person that warns him off from a thing, the same invites him; he that persuades him to it interdicts him. 'Tis a misfortune of insanity for you to fly to Cupid for refuge. But I advise you again and again to think of this, how you should seek to act. If you attempt to do according as you are now showing signs, you will cause the conflagration of your family; and then, in consequence, you will have a desire for water with which to quench this conflagration of your family. And if you should obtain it, just as lovers are subtle in their devices, you will not leave even one spark with which your family may brighten up.

LESBONICUS
'Tis easy to be found: fire is granted, even though you should ask it of a foe. But you, by your reproof, are urging me from my faults to a

viler course. You are persuading me to give you my sister without a portion. But it does not become me, who have misused so great a patrimony, to be still in affluent circumstances, and to be possessing land, but her to be in want, so as with good reason to detest me. Never will he be respected by others who makes himself despised by his own relatives. As I said, I will do; I do not wish you to be in doubt any longer.

LYSITELES
And is it so much preferable that for your sister's sake you should incur poverty, and that I should possess that piece of land rather than yourself, who ought to be upholding your own walls?

LESBONICUS
I do not wish you so much to have regard to myself, in order that you may relieve my poverty, as that in my neediness I may not become disgraced: that people may not spread about this report of me, that I gave my own sister without a portion to you, rather in concubinage than in marriage. Who would be said to be more dishonorable than I? The spreading of this report might do credit to you, but it would defile me, if you were to marry her without a portion. For you it would be a gain of reputation, for me it would be something for people to throw in my teeth.

LYSITELES
Why so? Do you suppose that you will become Dictator if I accept the land of you?

LESBONICUS
I neither wish, nor require, nor do I think so; but still, to be mindful of his duty, is true honour to an upright man.

LYSITELES
For my part, I know you, how you are disposed in mind; I see it, I discover it, I apprehend. You are doing this, that when you have formed an alliance between us, and when you have given up this piece of land, and have nothing here with which to support life, in

beggary you may fly from the city, in exile you may desert your country, your kindred, your connexions, your friends, — the nuptials once over. People would suppose that you were frightened hence by my means, and through my cupidity. Do not fancy in your mind that I will act so as to allow that to happen.

STASIMUS
advanccing . Well, I cannot but exclaim, "Well done, well done, Lysiteles, encore." Easily do you win the victory; the other is conquered: your performance is superior. This one *pointing to LYSITELES* acts better in character, and composes better lines. By reason of your folly do you still dispute it? Stand in awe of the fine.

LESBONICUS
What means this interruption of yours, or your intrusion here upon our conversation?

STASIMUS
The same way that I came here I'll get me gone.

LESBONICUS
Step this way home with me, Lysiteles; there we will talk at length about these matters.

LYSITELES
I am not in the habit of doing anything in secret. Just as my feelings are I will speak out. If your sister, as I think it right, is thus given to me in marriage without a portion, and if you are not about to go away hence, that which shall be mine, the same shall be yours. But if you are minded otherwise, may that which you do turn out for you for the best. I will never be your friend on any other terms; such is my determination. *(Exit LESBONICUS, followed by LYSITELES.)*

STASIMUS
Faith, he's off. D'ye hear — Lysiteles? I want you. He's off as well. Stasimus, you remain alone. What am I now to do, but to buckle up my baggage and sling my buckler on my back, and order soles to be fastened beneath my shoes? There is no staying now. I see that no

long time hence I shall be a soldier's drudge. And when my master has thrown himself into the pay of some potentate, I guess that among the greatest warriors he will prove a brave — hand at running away, and that there he will capture the spoil, who-shall come to attack my master. I myself, the moment that I shall have assumed my bow and quiver and arrows, and the helmet on my head, shall-go to sleep very quietly in my tent. I'll be off to the Forum; I'll ask that talent back of the person to whom I lent it six days since, that I may have some provision for the journey to carry with me. *(Exit.)*

Enter MEGARONIDES and CALLICLES.

MEGARONIDES
According as you relate the matter to me, Callicles, it really can by no means be but that a portion must be given to the girl.

CALLICLES
Why, troth, it would hardly be honestly done on my part, if I were to allow her to contract a marriage without a portion, when I have her property in my possession at home. * * * * *

MEGARONIDES

* * * * A portion is ready at your house; unless you like to wait until her brother has disposed of her in marriage without a portion. After that, you might go to Philto yourself, and might say that you present her with a portion, and that you do it on account of your intimacy with her father. But I dread this, lest that offer might bring you into crimination and disgrace with the public. They would say that you were so kind to the girl not without some good reason; that the dowry which you presented her was given you by her father; they would think that you were portioning her out of that, and that you had not kept it safe for her just as it was given, and that you had withheld some part. Now, if you wish to await the return of Charmides, the time is very long; meanwhile, the inclination to marry her may leave this Lysiteles; this proposal, too, is quite a first-rate one for her.

CALLICLES
All these very same things suggest themselves to my mind.

MEGARONIDES
Consider if you think this more feasible and more to the purpose: go to the young man himself, and tell him how the matter really stands.

CALLICLES
Should I now discover the treasure to a young man, ill-regulated, and brimful of passion and of wantonness? No, faith, most assuredly, by no means. For I know, beyond a doubt, that he would devour even all that spot where it is buried. I fear to dig for it, lest he should hear the noise; lest, too, he might trace out the matter itself, if I should say I will give her a portion.

MEGARONIDES
By what method, then, can the portion be secretly taken out?

CALLICLES
Until an opportunity can be found for that business, I would, in the meanwhile, ask for a loan of the money from some friend or other.

MEGARONIDES
Can it be obtained from some friend or other?

CALLICLES
It can.

MEGARONIDES
Nonsense; you'll certainly meet with this answer at once: "O, upon my faith, I really have not anything that I can lend you."

CALLICLES
Troth, I would rather they would tell me the truth than lend me the money with a bad grace.

MEGARONIDES
But consider this plan, if it pleases you.

CALLICLES
What is the plan?

MEGARONIDES
I have found out a clever plan, as I think.

CALLICLES
What is it?

MEGARONIDES
Let some person, now, be hired, of an appearance as much unknown as possible, such as has not been often seen. Let this person be dressed up to the life after a foreign fashion, just as though he were a foreigner.

CALLICLES
What is he to understand that he must do after that?

MEGARONIDES
It is necessary for him to be some lying, deceiving, impudent fellow — a lounger from the Forum.

CALLICLES
And what then, after that?

MEGARONIDES
Let him come to the young man as though from Seleucia, from his father; let him pronounce his salutation to him in the words of his father, say that he is prospering in business, and is alive and well, and that he will be shortly coming back again. Let him bring two letters; let us seal these, as though they are from his father. Let him give the one to him, and let him say that he wishes to give the other to yourself.

CALLICLES
Go on, and tell me still further.

MEGARONIDES

Let him say that he is bringing some gold as a marriage-portion from her father for the girl, and that his father has requested him to deliver it to you. Do you understand me now?

CALLICLES
Pretty nearly; and I listen with great satisfaction.

MEGARONIDES
Then, in consequence, you will finally give the gold to the young man when the girl shall be given in marriage.

CALLICLES
Troth, 'tis very cleverly contrived.

MEGARONIDES
By this means, when you have dug up the treasure, you will have removed all cause for suspicion from the young man. He will think that the gold has been brought to you from his father; whereas, you will be taking it from the treasure.

CALLICLES
Very cleverly and fairly contrived; although I am ashamed, at this time of life, for me to be playing a double part. But when he shall bring the letters sealed, don't you suppose that the young man will then recollect the impression of his father's signet?

MEGARONIDES
Will you be silent now? Reasons innumerable may be found for that circumstance. That which he used to have he has lost, and he has since had another new one made. Then, if he should bring them not sealed at all, this might be said, — that they had been unsealed for him by the custom-house officers, and had been examined. On matters of this kind, however, 'tis mere idleness to spend the day in talk; although a long discussion might be spun out. Go now, at once, privately to the treasure; send to a distance the men-servants and the maids; and — do you hear?

CALLICLES

What is it?

MEGARONIDES
Take care that you conceal this matter from that same wife of yours as well; for, i' faith, there is never any subject which they can be silent upon. Why are you standing now? Why don't you take yourself off hence, and bestir yourself? Open the treasure, take thence as much gold as is requisite for this purpose; at once close it up again, but secretly, as I have enjoined you; turn all out of the house.

CALLICLES
I will do so.

MEGARONIDES
But, really, we are continuing too long a discourse; we are wasting the day, whereas there is need now of all expedition. There is nothing for you to fear about the seal; trust me for that. This is a clever excuse to give, as I mentioned, that they have been looked at by the officers. In fine, don't you see the time of day? What do you think of him being of such a nature and disposition? He is drunk already; anything you like may be proved for him. Besides, what is the greatest point of all, this person will say that he brings, and not that he applies for, money.

CALLICLES
Now, that's enough.

MEGARONIDES
I am now going to hire a sharper from the Forum, and then I will seal the two letters; and I'll send him thither *pointing to the house of CHARMIDES* , well tutored in his part, to this young man.

CALLICLES
I am going in-doors then to my duty in consequence. Do you see about this matter.

MEGARONIDES

I’ll take care it’s done in the very cleverest style. *(Exeunt.)*

ACT IV.

Enter CHARMIDES.

CHARMIDES
To Neptune, potent o'er the deep and most powerful, the brother of æthereal Jove, joyously and sincerely do I proffer praise, and return my grateful thanks; to the salt waves, too, with whom lay supreme power over myself, — one, too, that existed over my property and my life, — inasmuch as from their realms they have returned me safe and sound even to my own native city. And, Neptune, before the other Deities, do I both give and return to you extreme thanks. For all people talk of you as being cruel and severe, of voracious habits, filthy, unsightly, unendurable, and outrageous; on the other hand, I have experienced your kindly aid. For, in good sooth, I have found you mild and merciful upon the deep, even to that degree that I wished. This commendation, too, I had already heard with these ears before of you among men, — that you were accustomed to spare the poor, and to depress and overawe the rich. Adieu! I commend you; you know how to treat men properly, according as is just. This is worthy of the Gods; they should ever prove benignant to the needy; to men of high station, quite otherwise. Trusty have you proved, though they are in the habit of saying that you cannot be trusted. For, without you, it would have happened, I am very sure, that on the deep your attendants would have shockingly torn in pieces and rent asunder wretched me, and, together with me, my property as well, in every direction throughout the azure surface of ocean. But just now, like raging dogs, and no otherwise, did the winds in hurricane beset the ship; storms and waves, and raging squalls were about to roar, to break the mast, to bear down the yards, to split the sails; had not your favouring kindness been nigh at hand. Have done with me, if you please; henceforth have I now determined to give myself up to ease; enough have I got. With what pains have I struggled, while I was acquiring riches for my son. But who is this that is coming up the street with his new-fangled garb and appearance? I' faith, though I wish to be at home, I'll wait awhile; at the same time, I will give my

attention to see what business this fellow is about. *He retires aside.*

Enter the SHARPER.

A SHARPER.
To this day I give the name of “The Festival of the Three Pieces” (Trinummus); for, on this day, have I let out my services in a cheating scheme for three pieces of money. I am just arrived from Seleucia, Macedonia, Asia, and Arabia, — places which I never visited either with my eye or with my foot. See now, what business poverty brings upon the man that is wretchedly destitute; inasmuch as I am now obliged, for the sake of three pieces of money, to say that I received these letters from a certain person, about whom I don’t know, nor have I ever known, who the man is, nor do I know this for certain, whether he was ever born or not.

CHARMIDES
behind . Faith, this fellow’s surely of the mushroom genus; he covers himself entirely with his top. The countenance of the fellow appears to be Illyrian; he comes, too, in that garb.

A SHARPER.
He who hired me, when he had hired me, took me to his house; he told me what he wanted to be done; he taught and showed me beforehand how I was to do everything. If, then, I should add anything more, my employer will on that account the better forward his plan through me. As he dressed me out, so am I now equipped; his money did that. He himself borrowed my costume, at his own risk, from the theatrical wardrobe; if I shall be able, now, to impose on this man through my garb, I will give him occasion clearly to find that I am a very trickster.

CHARMIDES
behind . The more I look at him, the less does the appearance of the fellow please me. ’Tis a wonder if that fellow there is not either a night-robber or a cutpurse. He is viewing the locality; he is looking around him and surveying the houses; troth, I think he is

reconnoitring the spot for him to come and rob bye and bye. I have a still greater desire to watch what he is about: I'll give attention to this matter.

A SHARPER.
This employer of mine pointed out these localities to me; at this house are my devices to be put in practice. I'll knock at the door.

CHARMIDES
behind . Surely this fellow is making in a straight line for my house; i' faith, I think I shall have to keep watch this night of my arrival.

A SHARPER.
knocks at the door of the house of CHARMIDES . Open this door! — open it! Hallo, there! who now has the care of this door?

CHARMIDES
coming up to him . Young man, what do you want? hat is it you wish? Why are you knocking at this door?

A SHARPER.
Eh! old gentleman; I am inquiring here for a young man named Lesbonicus, where in this quarter he lives — and likewise for another person, with such white hairs on his head as yours; he that gave me these letters said his name was Callicles.

CHARMIDES
aside . In fact, this fellow is looking for my own son Lesbonicus and my friend Callicles, to whom I entrusted both my children and my property.

A SHARPER.
Let me know, respected sir, if you are acquainted with it, where these persons live.

CHARMIDES
Why are you inquiring for them? Or who are you? — Or whence are you? — Or whence do you cone?

A SHARPER.
I gave the return correctly to the Censor, when I was questioned by him ——

CHARMIDES

* * * *

A SHARPER.
You ask a number of things in the same breath; I know not which in especial to inform you upon. If you will ask each thing singly, and in a quiet manner, I'll both let you know my name, and my business, and my travels.

CHARMIDES
I'll do as you desire. Come then; in the first place, tell me your name.

A SHARPER.
You begin by demanding an arduous task.

CHARMIDES
How so?

A SHARPER.
Because, respected sir, if you were to begin before daylight, i' faith, to commence at the first part of my name, 'twould be the dead of the night before you could get to the end of it.

CHARMIDES
According to your story, a person should have a long journey's provision crammed tightly in for your name.

A SHARPER.
I have another name somewhat less, — about the size of a wine-casks.

CHARMIDES
What is this name of yours, young man?

A SHARPER.
“Hush,” that’s my name; that’s my every-day one.

CHARMIDES
I’ faith, ’tis a scampish name; just as though you were to say, “Hush,” if I were confiding anything to you, and then it is at an end forthwith. *Aside.* This fellow is evidently a sharper. What say you, young man —— ?

A SHARPER.
What is it now?

CHARMIDES
Speak out; what do these persons owe you whom you are seeking?

A SHARPER.
The father of this young man, Lesbonicus, delivered to me these two letters; he is a friend of mine.

CHARMIDES
aside . I have now caught him in the fact; he says that I gave him the letters. I will have some fine sport with the fellow.

A SHARPER.
As I have begun, if you will give attention, I will say on.

CHARMIDES
I’ll give you my attention.

A SHARPER.
He bade me give this letter to his son, Lesbonicus, and this other one, as well, he bade me give to his friend Callicles.

CHARMIDES
aside . Troth, but since he is acting the impostor, I, on the other hand, have an inclination to act the cheat as well. Where was he himself?

A SHARPER.

He was carrying on his business prosperously.

CHARMIDES
But where?

A SHARPER.
At Seleucia.

CHARMIDES

* * * * * And did you receive these from himself?

A SHARPER.
With his own hands he himself delivered them into my hands.

CHARMIDES
Of what appearance is this person?

A SHARPER.
He is a person somewhere about half a foot taller than you.

CHARMIDES
aside . This is an odd matter, if in fact I am taller when absent than when present. Do you know this person?

A SHARPER.
You are asking me a ridiculous question; together with him I was in the habit of taking my meals.

CHARMIDES
What is his name?

A SHARPER.
One, i’ faith, that belongs to an honorable man.

CHARMIDES
I would like to hear it.

A SHARPER.

Troth, his name *hesitating* — his — his — *Aside.* Woe to unfortunate me.

CHARMIDES
What's the matter?

A SHARPER.
Unguardedly, I this moment swallowed the name.

CHARMIDES
I like not the man that has his friends shut up within his teeth.

A SHARPER.
And yet this moment 'twas dwelling on the very edge of my lips.

CHARMIDES
aside . I've come to-day in good time before this fellow.

A SHARPER.
aside . To my sorrow I'm caught in the fact.

CHARMIDES
Have you now recollected the name?

A SHARPER.
'Fore Gods and men, i' faith, I'm ashamed of myself

CHARMIDES
See, now, how well you know this man.

A SHARPER.
As well as my own self. This is in the habit of happening: the thing you are holding in your hand, and seeing with your eyes, that same you are looking for as lost. I'll recollect it letter by letter. C is the beginning of the name.

CHARMIDES
Is it Callias?

A SHARPER.
No: it isn't that.

CHARMIDES
Callippus?

A SHARPER.
It isn't that.

CHARMIDES
Callidemides?

A SHARPER.
It isn't that.

CHARMIDES
Callinicus?

A SHARPER.
No: it isn't that.

CHARMIDES
Or is it Callimachus?

A SHARPER.
'Tis in vain you suggest; and, i' faith, I really don't care one fillip about it, since I recollect enough myself for my own purpose.

CHARMIDES
But there are many people here of the name of Lesbonicus; unless you tell me the name of his father, I cannot show you these persons whom you are looking for. What is it like? Perhaps we can find it out by guessing.

A SHARPER.
It is something like this: Char ——

CHARMIDES

Chares? Or Charicles? Or is it Charmides?

A SHARPER.
Ah! that's he; may the Deities confound him.

CHARMIDES
I have said to you once before already * * * * that it is proper for you rather to speak well of a man that is your friend, than to curse him.

A SHARPER.
Isn't it the fact that this most worthless fellow has lain perdu between my lips and my teeth?

CHARMIDES
Don't you be cursing an absent friend.

A SHARPER.
Why, then, did this most rascally fellow hide himself away from me?

CHARMIDES
If you had only called him, he would have answered to his name. But where is he himself now?

A SHARPER.
Troth, I left him at Rhadama, in the isle of Apeland.

CHARMIDES

* * * * * *aside* . What person is there a greater simpleton than I, who myself am making inquiries where I am? But it is by no means unimportant to this present purpose. What do you say as —— ?

A SHARPER.
What now?

CHARMIDES
I ask you this. What places have you visited?

A SHARPER.

Places exceedingly wonderful in astonishing ways.

CHARMIDES
I should like to hear about them, unless it is inconvenient.

A SHARPER.
Really I quite long to tell you. First of all we were conveyed to Pontus, to the land of Arabia.

CHARMIDES
How now; is Arabia then in Pontus?

A SHARPER.
It is. Not that Arabia where frankincense is produced, but where the wormwood grows, and the wild marjoram which the poultry love.

CHARMIDES
aside . An extremely ingenious knave this. But the greater simpleton I, to be asking of this fellow from what place I have come back, a thing which I know, and he does not know; except that I have a mind to try how he will get out of it at last. But what say you further? Whither did you go next from thence?

A SHARPER.
If you give me your attention, I will tell you. To the source of the river which arises out of the heavens, from beneath the throne of Jupiter.

CHARMIDES
Beneath the throne of Jupiter?

A SHARPER.
Yes: I say so.

CHARMIDES
Out of the heavens?

A SHARPER.

Aye, out of the very middle.

CHARMIDES
How now; and did you ascend even to the heavens?

A SHARPER.
Yes: we were carried in a little skiff right on, up the river, against the tide.

CHARMIDES
And did you see Jupiter as well?

A SHARPER.
The other Gods said that he had gone to his country-house, to dole out the victuals for his slaves. Then, after that ——

CHARMIDES
Then after that — I don't want you to relate anything more.

A SHARPER.
Troth, I'm silent, if it's troublesome.

CHARMIDES
Why, no decent person ought to tell it, who has gone from the earth to heaven.

A SHARPER.
I'll leave you, as I see you wish it. But point me out these persons whom I am looking for, and to whom I must deliver these letters.

CHARMIDES
What say you? If now perchance you were to see Charmides himself, him, I mean, who you say gave you these letters, would you know the man?

A SHARPER.
By my troth now, do you take me to be a brute beast, who really am not able to recognise the person with whom I have been spending my

life? And would he have been such a fool as to entrust to me a thousand Philippean pieces, which gold he bade me carry to his son, and to his friend Callicles, to whom he said that he had entrusted his affairs? Would he have entrusted them to me if he had not known me, and I him, very intimately?

CHARMIDES
aside . I really have a longing now to swindle this swindler, if I can cozen him out of these thousand Philippean pieces which he has said that I have given to him. A person, that I know not who he is, and have never beheld him with my eyes before this day, should I be entrusting gold to him? A man, to whom, if his life were at stake, I would not entrust a dump of lead. This fellow must be adroitly dealt with by me. Hallo! Mister Hush, I want three words with you.

A SHARPER.
Even three hundred, if you like.

CHARMIDES
Have you that gold which you received from Charmides?

A SHARPER.
Yes, and Philippeans, too, counted out on the table with his own hand, a thousand pieces.

CHARMIDES
You received it, you mean, from Charmides himself?

A SHARPER.
‘Twere a wonder if I had received it of his father, or of his grandfather, who are dead.

CHARMIDES
Then, young man, hand me over this gold.

A SHARPER.
staring at him . What gold am I to give you?

CHARMIDES
That which you have owned you received from me.

A SHARPER.
Received from you?

CHARMIDES
Yes, I say so.

A SHARPER.
Who are you?

CHARMIDES
I am Charmides, who gave you the thousand pieces of money.

A SHARPER.
I' faith, you are not he; and this day, you never shall be he, for this gold, at any rate. Away with you, if you please, you impostor! *Aside.* You are trying to cheat the cheater.

CHARMIDES
I am Charmides.

A SHARPER.
I' faith, you are so to no purpose, for I carry no gold. Right cleverly were you down upon me, at the very nick of time. After I said that I was bringing the gold, that instant you became Charmides. Before I made mention of the gold, you were not he. It won't do. Just, therefore, in such manner as you Charmidised yourself, do you again un-Charmidise yourself.

CHARMIDES
Who am I, then, if in fact I am not he who I really am?

A SHARPER.
What matters that to me? So long as you are not he whom I do not choose you to be, you may be who you like, for what I care. Just now, you were not he who you were, now you are become he who

then you were not.

CHARMIDES
Come, despatch, if you are going to do it.

A SHARPER.
What am I to do?

CHARMIDES
Give me back the gold.

A SHARPER.
You are dreaming, old gentleman.

CHARMIDES
Did you own that Charmides delivered the gold to you?

A SHARPER.
Yes — in writing.

CHARMIDES
Are you making haste or not, you night-robber, to be off with all speed this very instant from this neighbourhood, before I order you to be soundly cudgelled on the spot?

A SHARPER.
For what reason?

CHARMIDES
Because I am that self-same Charmides about whom you have been thus lying, and who you said gave the letters to you.

A SHARPER.
How now; prithee, are you really he?

CHARMIDES
I really am he.

A SHARPER.

Say you so, pray? Are you really he himself?

CHARMIDES
I do say so.

A SHARPER.
Are you his own self?

CHARMIDES
His own self, I say. I am Charmides.

A SHARPER.
And are you then his own self?

CHARMIDES
His own very self. Begone hence out of my sight.

A SHARPER.
Since you really have made your appearance here thus late, you shall be beaten both at my own award and that of the new Ædiles.

CHARMIDES
And are you abusing me as well?

A SHARPER.
Yes; seeing that you have arrived in safety, may the Gods confound me, if I care a straw for you, had you perished first. I have received the money for this job; you, I devote to bad luck. But who you are, or who you are not, I care not one jot. I'll go and carry word to him who gave me the three pieces, that he may know that he has thrown them away. I'm off. Live with a curse, and fare you ill; may all the Gods confound you, Charmides, for coming from abroad. *(Exit.)*

CHARMIDES
Since this fellow has gone, at last a time and opportunity seem to have arrived for speaking out without restraint. Already does this sting pierce my breast — what business he could have before my house? For these letters summon apprehensions into my heart; those

thousand pieces, too — what purpose they were to serve. I' faith, a bell is never rung for no purpose; unless some one handles it or moves it, 'tis mute, 'tis dumb. But who is this, that is beginning to run this way along the street? I should like to observe what he is about. I'll step aside this way. *He retires aside.*

Enter STASIMUS.

STASIMUS
to himself . Stasimus, make you haste with all speed; away with you to your master's house, lest on a sudden, through your folly, fears should arise for your shoulder-blades. Quicken your pace, make haste; 'tis now a long while since you left the house. If you shall be absent when inquired after by your master, take you care, please, that the smacks of the bull's-hide don't clatter thick upon you. Don't you cease running. See now, Stasimus, what a worthless fellow you are; and isn't it the fact that you have forgotten your ring at the liquor-shop after you have been washing your throat with warm drink? Turn about, and run back now, to seek it, while the thing has but just happened.

CHARMIDES
behind . Whoever he is, his throat is his taskmaster; that teaches this fellow the art of running.

STASIMUS
What, good-for-nothing fellow, are you not ashamed of yourself? having lost your memory after only three cups? And really, because you were there drinking together with such honest fellows, who could keep their hands off the property of another without difficulty; — is it among such men that you expect you may recover your ring? Chiruchus was there, Cerconicus, Crimnus, Cricolabus, Collabus, whipped-necks, whipped-legs, iron-rubbers, whipped-knaves. By my faith, any one of these could steal the sole of his shoe from a running footman.

CHARMIDES

behind . So may the Gods love me, a finished thief.

STASIMUS
Why should I go seek what is gone for ever? Unless I would bestow my pains, too, by way of addition over and above to my loss. Why, then, don't you consider that what is gone is gone? Tack about, then. Betake yourself back to your master.

CHARMIDES
behind . This fellow is no runaway; he remembers his home.

STASIMUS
I wish that the old-fashioned ways of old-fashioned days, and the old-fashioned thriftiness, were in greater esteem here, rather than these bad ways.

CHARMIDES
behind . Immortal Gods! this man really is beginning to talk of noble doings! He longs for the old-fashioned ways; know that he loves the old-fashioned ways, after the fashion of our forefathers.

STASIMUS
For, now-a-days, men's manners reckon of no value what is proper, except what is agreable. Ambition now is sanctioned by usage, and is free from the laws. By usage, people have the license to throw away their shields, and to run away from the enemy. To seek honor thereby in place of disgrace is the usage.

CHARMIDES
behind . A shameless usage.

STASIMUS
Now-a-days, 'tis the usage to neglect the brave.

CHARMIDES
behind . Aye, 'tis really shocking.

STASIMUS

The public manners have now got the laws in their power; to them they are more submissive than are parents to their children. In their misery, these laws are even hung up against the wall with iron nails, where it had been much more becoming for bad ways to be fixed up.

CHARMIDES
behind . I'd like to go up and accost this person; but I listen to him with much pleasure, and I'm afraid, if I address him, that he may begin to talk on some other subject.

STASIMUS
And, for these ways, there is nothing rendered sacred by the law. The laws are subservient to usage; but these habits are hastening to sweep away both what is sacred and what is public property.

CHARMIDES
behind . By my troth, 'twere right for some great calamity to befal these bad customs.

STASIMUS
Ought not this state of things to be publicly censured? For this kind of men are the enemies of all persons, and do an injury to the entire people. By a non-observance of their own honour, they likewise destroy all trust even in those who merit it not; inasmuch as people form an estimate of the disposition of these from the disposition of those fellows. If you lend a person any money, it becomes lost for any purpose as one's own. When you ask for it back again, you may find a friend made an enemy by your kindness. If you begin to press still further, the option of two things ensues — either you must part with that which you have entrusted, or else you must lose that friend. As to how this suggests itself to me, I have by actual experience been lately put in mind of it.

CHARMIDES
behind . Surely this is my servant Stasimus?

STASIMUS
For as to him to whom I lent the talent, I bought myself an enemy

with my talent, and sold my friend. But I am too great a simpleton to be attending to public matters rather than (what's my immediate interest) obtain safety for my back. I'll go home. *Moves as if going.*

CHARMIDES
Hallo, you! Stop, this instant! Harkye; hallo, you!

STASIMUS
I'll not stop.

CHARMIDES
I want you.

STASIMUS
What if I myself don't want you to want me.

CHARMIDES
Why, Stasimus, you are behaving very rudely.

STASIMUS
'Twere better for you to buy some one to give your commands to.

CHARMIDES
I' faith, I have bought one, and paid the money, too. But if he is not obedient to my orders, what ani I to do?

STASIMUS
Give him a severe punishment.

CHARMIDES
You give good advice; I am resolved to do so.

STASIMUS
Unless, indeed, you are under obligations to him.

CHARMIDES
If he is a deserving person, I am under obligations to him; but if he is otherwise, I'll do as you advise me.

STASIMUS
What matters it to me whether you have good or lad slaves?

CHARMIDES
Because you have a share in this matter both of the good and of the bad.

STASIMUS
The one share I leave to yourself; the other share, that in the good, do you set down to my account.

CHARMIDES
If you shall prove deserving, it shall be so. Look back at me — I am Charmides.

STASIMUS
Ha! what person is it that has made mention of that most worthy man?

CHARMIDES
'Tis that most worthy man himself.

STASIMUS
O seas, earth, heavens, by my trust in you — do I see quite clearly with my eyes? Is this he, or is it not? 'Tis he! 'Tis certainly he; 'tis he beyond a doubt! O my most earnestly wished-for master, health to you!

CHARMIDES
Health to you, too, Stasimus!

STASIMUS
That you are safe and sound, I ——

CHARMIDES
interruptitng him . I know it, and I believe you. But wave the rest; answer me this; how are my children, my son and daughter, whom I left here?

STASIMUS
They are alive, and well.

CHARMIDES
Both of them, say you?

STASIMUS
Both of them.

CHARMIDES
The Gods willed me to be safe and preserved from dangners. The rest that I want to know I will inquire about in-doors at my leisure. Let us go in-doors; follow me.

STASIMUS
Where are you going now?

CHARMIDES
Where else but to my house?

STASIMUS
Do you suppose that we are living here?

CHARMIDES
Why, where else should I suppose?

STASIMUS
Now ——

CHARMIDES
What about “now?”

STASIMUS
This house is not our own.

CHARMIDES
What is it I hear from you?

STASIMUS

Your son has sold this house.

CHARMIDES
I'm ruined.

STASIMUS
For silver minæ; ready money counted out.

CHARMIDES
How many?

STASIMUS
Forty.

CHARMIDES
I'm undone. Who has purchased it?

STASIMUS
Callicles, to whom you entrusted your affairs; he has removed here to live, and has turned us out of doors.

CHARMIDES
Where is my son now living?

STASIMUS
Here, in these back buildings. *Points to the side of the house.*

CHARMIDES
I'm utterly undone.

STASIMUS
I thought that this would be distressing to you when you heard of it.

CHARMIDES
To my sorrow, amid extreme dangers I have been borne over vast oceans, with the peril of my life I have preserved myself among robbers full many in number, and I have returned safe. Now, to my misery, I am here undone by reason of those same persons for whose

sake I have been struggling at this time of life Grief is depriving me of my senses. Support me, Stasimus.

STASIMUS
Do you wish me to fetch you some water?

CHARMIDES
When my fortunes were in their mortal struggle, then was it befitting that water should be sprinkled upon them.

Enter CALLICLES.

CALLICLES
What noise is this that I hear before my house?

CHARMIDES
O Callicles! O Callicles! O Callicles! to what sort of friend have I entrusted my property?

CALLICLES
To one good, and faithful, and trusty, and of strict integrity. Health to you, and I rejoice that you have arrived safe and sound. ...

CHARMIDES
How, health to me? Troth, I have no patience with such health. This I wish to know; how have you kept your trust, who, without my knowledge, have utterly destroyed my property and my children that I entrusted to you and committed to your charge when going hence abroad?

CALLICLES
I don’t think that it is fair, when you don’t understand the matter, to censure your old friend with harsh words. For you are both mistaken and you are doing me a very great injustice.

CHARMIDES
Have you not bought this house which you came out of just now, and driven thence my son Lesbonicus? Is this so as I say, or is it not?

Answer me.

CALLICLES
I myself did buy the house; I bought it that I might keep it for you. And without that it would have happened that your son would have sold it to another person; and then you would have lost both it and that treasure together, which, concealed there, you had entrusted to my charge. See, I restore it safe to you; for you did I buy it, not for myself.

CHARMIDES
Prithee, what do you say? By my trust in Gods and men, you make me suddenly to be quite ashamed of my error in speaking unkindly to my friend in return for his services.

CALLICLES
How, then; do you now think that I am trusty and faithful?]

CHARMIDES
I do think so,, if all these matters are so as you relate them. But what means this garb of yours?

CALLICLES
I'll tell you. I was digging up the treasure indoors, as a marriage-portion to be given to your daughter. But I will relate to you both this and the rest in the house. Follow me.

CHARMIDES
Stasimus.

STASIMUS
Well!

CHARMIDES
Run with all haste to the Piræus, and make but one run of it. There you will at once see the ship, on board of which I was carried hither. Bid Sagario take care that the things are brought which I enjoined him, and do you go together with them. The duty has been already

paid to the custom-house officer.

STASIMUS
I make no delay.

CHARMIDES
Get you gone with all speed; and be back directly.

STASIMUS
I am both there and here in an instant.

CALLICLES
to CHARMIDES. Do you follow me this way indoors.

CHARMIDES
I follow. *(Exeunt CALLICLES and CHARMIDES into the house.)*

STASIMUS
This man alone has remained a firm friend to my master; nor has he allowed his mind to swerve from unshaken fidelity, although I believe that he has undergone many troubles, by reason of the property and the children of my master. Still, this person, as I suspect, alone has maintained his fidelity. *(Exit.)*

ACT V.

Enter LYSITELES.

LYSITELES
This individual is the very first of all men; excelling all in pleasures and delights. So truly do the blessings which I desire befal me, that whatever I undertake is brought about, and constantly succeeds: so does one delight succeed other delights. Just now, Stasimus, the servant of Lesbonicus, came to me at home. He told me that his master, Charmides, had arrived here from abroad. Now he must be forthwith waited upon by me, that the father may prove a more sure foundation in that matter on which I have treated with his son. I'll go. But this door, with its creaking, inopportunely causes me delay. *He retires to a distance.*

Enter CHARMIDES and CALLICLES.

CHARMIDES
There never was, nor will there be, nor yet do I think that there is a person upon the earth, whose fidelity and constancy towards his friend equals yours. For without you, it would have been that he would have ousted me out of this house.

CALLICLES
If I have in any way acted well towards my friend, or have faithfully consulted his advantage, I seem not to be deserving of praise, but I think I am free from fault. For a benefit which is conferred on a man for his own, at once is lost to the giver; what is given only as a loan, the same there is a right to ask back, whenever you please.

CHARMIDES
'Tis so as you say. But I cannot sufficiently-wonder at this, that he has betrothed his sister into a family so influential.

CALLICLES
Aye; to Lysiteles, the son of Philto.

LYSITELES
behind . Why, he is mentioning my name.

CHARMIDES
He has got into a most worthy family.

LYSITELES
behind . Why do I hesitate to address these persons? But still, I think, I may wait awhile; for something is going to be said to the purpose about this matter.

CHARMIDES
O ——

CALLICLES
What's the matter?

CHARMIDES
I forgot just now to tell you of it in-doors. Au I was coming hither, a while ago, a certain swindling fellow met me — a very finished sharper. He told me that he was carrying a thousand gold pieces, of my giving, to you and my son Lesbonicus; a fellow, that I know not who he was, nor have I ever seen him anywhere before. But why do you laugh?

CALLICLES
He came by my directions, as though he was one bringing the gold from you to me, to give as a portion to your daughter; that your son, when I should give it to her from my own hands, might suppose that it had been brought from you, and that he might not anyhow be enabled to discover the fact itself — that your treasure was in my possession, and demand it of me, as having belonged to his father, by the public laws.

CHARMIDES
Cleverly contrived, i' troth.

CALLICLES

Megaronides, a common well-wisher of yours and mine, planned this.

CHARMIDES
Well, I applaud his device, and approve of it.

LYSITELES
behind . Why, in my foolishness, while I fear to interrupt their discourse, am I standing here alone, and am not forwarding the business that I was intending to trans act? I will accost these persons. *He advances.*

CHARMIDES
Who is this person that is coming this way towards us?

LYSITELES
going up to CHARMIDES . Lysiteles salutes his father-in-law Charmides.

CHARMIDES
May the Gods grant you, Lysiteles, whatever you may desire.

CALLICLES
Am I not worthy of a salutation?

LYSITELES
Yes; health to you, Callicles. It is right that I should give him the preference: the tunic is nearer the skin than the cloak.

CALLICLES
I trust that the Gods may direct your plans aright.

CHARMIDES
I hear that my daughter has been betrothed to you?

LYSITELES
Unless you are unwilling.

CHARMIDES
Nay, I am not unwilling.

LYSITELES
Do you, then, promise your daughter for my wife?

CHARMIDES
I promise a thousand gold Philippean pieces, as well, for a portion.

LYSITELES
I care nothing about a portion.

CHARMIDES
If she pleases you, the portion which she presents to you must be pleased as well. In fine, the object which you desire you shall not have, unless you shall take that which you do not desire.

CALLICLES
to LYSITELES . He asks but justice.

LYSITELES
He shall obtain it, you the advocate and the judge. On these conditions, do you engage that your daughter shall be given to me as my wife?

CHARMIDES
I do promise her.

CALLICLES
And I promise her likewise.

LYSITELES
O save you, my connexions by marriage. *He embraces them.*

CHARMIDES
But, in good sooth, there are some matters on account of which I still am angry with you.

LYSITELES
What have I done?

CHARMIDES
Because you have allowed my son to become dissolute.

LYSITELES
Had that been done by my consent, there would have been cause for you to blame me. * * * * * But allow me to obtain of you this one thing which I entreat?

CHARMIDES
What is it?

LYSITELES
You shall know. If he has done anything imprudently, that you will dismiss it all from your mind. Why do you shake your head?

CHARMIDES
My heart is tortured, and I fear ——

LYSITELES
What is it now?

CHARMIDES
Because he is such as I would that he was not, — by that am I tortured. I fear that if I refuse you what you ask of me, you may suppose that I am indifferent towards you. I won't make difficulties, however; I will do as you wish.

LYSITELES
You are a worthy man. I am going to call him out. *He goes to the door of the house of CHARMIDES* .

CHARMIDES
'Tis a shocking thing if one is not allowed to punish bad deserts just as they merit.

LYSITELES
knocking at the door . Open the door, open quickly, and call Lesbonicus out of doors, if he is at home. The occasion is very sudden, therefore I wish him to come to me with all haste. *Enter LESBONICUS from the house.*

LESBONICUS
What person has been calling me out of doors with so loud a knocking?

LYSITELES
'Tis your well.wisher and friend

LESBONICUS
Is all quite right? — tell me.

LYSITELES
All's well. I am glad to say that your father has returned from abroad.

LESBONICUS
Who says so?

LYSITELES

I.

LESBONICUS
Have you seen him?

LYSITELES
Aye, and you yourself may see him too. *He points to CHARMIDES.*

LESBONICUS
O my father, my father, blessings on you.

CHARMIDES
Many blessings on you, my son.

LESBONICUS

If, father, any trouble ——

CHARMIDES
Have no fear, nothing has happened. My affairs prosperously managed, I have returned safe. If you are only wishful to be steady, that daughter of Callicles has been promised you.

LESBONICUS
I will marry both her, father, and any one else besides that you shall bid me

CHARMIDES
Although I have been angry with you, one misery, in fact, is more than enough for one man.

CALLICLES
Nay, rather, ‘twere too little for him; for if he were to marry a hundred wives for his sins, it were too little.

LESBONICUS
But henceforth, in future, I will be steady.

CHARMIDES
So you say; if you will only do it.

LESBONICUS
Is there any reason why I should not bring my wife home to-morrow?

CHARMIDES
’Tis very good. And you, Lysiteles, be ready to be married the day after to-morrow. *A COMEDIAN.*

Give your applause.

TRUCULENTUS

Translated by Henry Thomas Riley

Truculentus once again concerns the relationships between prostitutes and their customers, offering one of Plautus's most cynical depictions of human nature. The plot involves Phronesium, who relentlessly persuades every male she encounters to give her all their money, by means of trickery or more often by simple flirtation. The men are more than happy to comply with her wishes, although they complain frequently of their regrettable situation. They are essentially under her spell, and are completely unable or unwilling to do anything to break free from it. Her alluring outward façade masks her cold and greedy true nature. Diniarchus, the most frequent customer at her house, has almost entirely lost his wealth to her antics. By this point, he is all too familiar with the games she plays. He even assists her with deceiving other men, but nonetheless continues to be her victim as well.

The main deception is played on the soldier Stratophanes, who had lived with Phronesium prior to the play's beginning, and before leaving the city had made many promises to her about starting a family together. Phronesium decides to borrow a baby to pretend she has just given birth, claiming that it is his when the soldier returns. He begins lavishing her with gifts; however, these are not enough for her insatiable appetite…

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THE SUBJECT.

PHRONESIUM, a Courtesan, has three admirers-Dinarchus, a dissipated young Athenian; Strabax, a young man from the country; and Stratophanes, an officer in the Babylonian army. To impose upon the last, she palms off a child upon him, pretending that it is hers, and that he is the father of it. In the first part of the Play, Dinarchus returns from abroad, and is admitted by the servant Astaphium into the house of Phronesium. After this, Astaphium goes to the house where Strabax lives, to invite him to visit Phronesium, but is roughly repulsed by Stratilax, his servant. Dinarchus quits the house of Phronesium, not having been allowed to see her, on the excuse that she is at the bath. Phronesium at length comes out, and, in their conversation, tells Dinarchus that she is pretending to have been pregnant by the Captain Stratophanes, and has procured a child to pass off as his. She also begs Dinarchus to make her a present, which he promises to do, and then takes his leave. She then gets everything in readiness to look as though she had just lain in. The Captain arrives from abroad, and produces his presents; but as ready money does not form a part of them, Phronesium expresses extreme dissatisfaction and contempt. At this moment Geta, the servant of Dinarchus, come's with his present, in money and provisions. A quarrel ensues between the Captain and Geta, who at last takes to his heels, on which Phronesium goes into her house. Strabax then arrives from the country with some ready money, and is admitted to visit Phronesium. Stratilax comes to look for him, and after some parley falls a prey to the allurements of Astaphium. Dinarchus then arrives, but, despite of his recent generosity, suffers a repulse. Before he quits the stage, Callicles, an old gentleman, comes with two female-servants, whom he examines as to what they have done with a female child that his daughter has been recently delivered of. They confess that they have carried it to Phronesium to be passed off as her own, and that Dinarchus is really the father of it. Dinarchus, in great alarm, overhears this conversation, and then accosts Callicles, and, confessing his fault, offers to marry his daughter forthwith. His offer is accepted; on which he revisits Phronesium, to request her to

restore to him the child. She, however, prevails upon him to lend it to her for a few days, that she may fully carry out her design of imposing upon the Captain. After this, Stratophanes appears again, and brings fresh presents. He then has a quarrel with Strabax, and the Play ends by Phronesium promising to divide her favours between them both. The text of this Play is in a most corrupt state.

THE ACROSTIC ARGUMENT.

[Supposed to have been written by Priscian the Grammarian.]

THREE
(Tres) young men are desperately in love for the same woman — one from the country (Rure), another from the city, the third from abroad; and that (Utque) she may touch the Captain for a heavy haul, she secretly (Clam) passes off as her own a child that has been born by stealth. A servant uses great violence (Vi) and churlish manners, that Courtesans (Lupæ) >may not squander the savings of his master; and (Et) yet he is softened. The Captain arrives, and for the sake of the child (Nati) gives costly presents. At length (Tandem), the father of her that has been debauched comes to know all, and agrees that (Utque) he shall marry her who has seduced her; and he asks back his own (Suum) child that has been passed off by the Courtesan as hers.

THE PROLOGUE.

PROLOGUS

A VERY small portion of room does Plautus ask from out of your vast and pleasant city within the walls, whither, without builders, he may transport Athens. What then? Will you give it or not? They nod assent. I fancied, indeed, that I should obtain it of you without hesitation. What if I were to ask something of your private means? They shake their heads. Only see, i' faith, how the ancient habit still indwells among you, to keep your tongues ever ready for a denial. But let's to the point, on account of which I came hither. Let this be Athens, just as this is our stage, only for the while that we perform this Play. Here *pointing to her house* dwells a female whose name is Phronesium; she has in herself the manners of the present age; she never asks of her lover that which has been given; but what is left, she does her best that it mayn't be left, by begging for it and carrying it off, as is the habit of the women; for all of them do this when they discover that they are loved. She is pretending to a Captain that she has been brought to bed, that the more speedily she may sweep away his property from him every atom. Why say more? If the life of this woman should only last, he will be sweeping off his substance with his very life into her hands.

ACT I.

Enter DINARCHUS.

DINARCHUS

to himself Not a whole life is sufficient for a lover thoroughly to learn, until he has become full well aware of this, in how many modes he may come to ruin; nor does Venus herself, in whose hands lie the sum and substance of lovers, ever instruct us in that art of reckoning — in how many ways one in love may be deluded, in how many modes he may come to ruin, and with how many modes of entreaty he may be entreated. How many blandishments are there in it, how many pettish ways in it, how many perils must be courted! Ye Gods! by our trust in you! Hey! what ground for perjury as well, besides the everlasting presents! In the first place then, there's the yearly allowance; that's her first haul. For that the favour of three nights is granted. In the meantime she's trying for either money, or wine, or oil, or corn, to prove whether you are lavish or thrifty. Just like the person that throws a casting-net into a fish-pond; when the net has gone and sunk, then he contracts the folds; but if he has rightly thrown it, he takes care that the fish may not escape; then in this direction and that does he enfold the fish netted well, until he has taken them out of the water: just so is the lover. If he gives that which is asked for, and is lavish rather than thrifty, nightly favours are given in addition. Meanwhile he swallows down the hook. If once he has partaken of the cup of love unmixed, and that draught has made its way within his breast, forthwith both himself is ruined, and his fortune, and his credit. If the mistress is angry with her lover perchance, doubly is the lover ruined, both in fortune and in mind; but if one man is preferable to another in her eyes, just as much is he ruined; if he enjoys but few of her favours, in mind is he ruined; if he enjoys them in abundance, he himself is joyous, his fortunes are ruined. * * * Thus is it in the houses kept by procurers; before you've given a single thing, she's preparing a hundred to ask for; either a golden trinket's lost, or a mantle has been torn, or a female servant bought; or some silver vessel, or some vessel of brass, or

expensive couch, or a Grecian cabinet, or there's always something to be lost and for the lover to be replacing for his mistress. And with one common earnestness do we conceal these losses while we are losing our fortunes, and our credit, and ourselves, lest our parents or our relatives should know something; whom, while we conceal it from them, if we were to make acquainted with it, for them in time to restrain our youthful age, we should be giving what has been received from them before to our descendants in reversion; I'd be for causing, that as there are now more procurers and harlots, there should be fewer and fewer of spendthrift fellows than there are at present; for now-a-days there are almost more procurers and harlots than flies at the time when it is most hot. For, if they are nowhere else, the procurers with their harlots are around the bankers' shops each day as though on siege. That score is the principal one; inasmuch as I know for certain, that now-a-days there are more harlots ready for the money than there are weights for weighing it. And I really don't know what purpose to say it is to serve that these procurers are thus keeping them at the bankers' shops, except as in the place of account-books, where the sums lent on loan may be set down — the sums received I mean, those expended let no one take count of. In fine, in a great nation, amid numberless persons, the state being tranquil and in quiet, the enemy vanquished, it befits all to be in love who have anything to give. Now, this Courtesan *pointing to the house* Phronesium, who dwells here, has totally expelled from my breast her own name. Phronesium, for Phronesis is wisdom. For I confess that I was with her first and foremost; a thing that's very disastrous to a lover's cash. The same woman, after she had found another out, a greater spendthrift, who would give more, a Babylonian Captain, whom the hussy said was troublesome and odious to her, forthwith banished me from the spot. He now is said to be about to arrive from abroad. For that reason has she now cooked up this device; she pretends that she has been brought to bed. That she may push me out of doors, and with the Captain alone live the life of a jovial Greek, she pretends that this Captain is the father of the child; for that reason does this most vile hussy need a palmed-off child. She fancies that she's deceiving me! Does she suppose that she could have concealed it from me, if she had been pregnant? Now I

arrived at Athens the day before yesterday from Lemnos, whither I have been on an embassy from this place on the public service. But who's this woman? It's her servant-maid Astaphium. With her too as well I've had some acquaintanceship. *Stands aside.*

Enter ASTAPHIUM, from the house of PHRONESIUM.

ASTAPHIUM
speaking to the SERVANTS within . Listen at the door and guard the house, that no one who comes may go away more loaded than he came, or who has brought empty hands into our house may take them full out of it. *To herself.* I know the ways of people; of such habits are the young men now-a-days. For as soon as ever the jolly companions have arrived at the courtesans' houses, their plans are formed. When they've arrived in-doors, some one of them is incessantly bestowing kisses on his mistress. While they are engaged, the others are pilfering. But if they see that any one is observing them, they play some trick, by which to amuse the observer with pleasantry and sport. Full oft do they devour that belonging to us just as the sausage-makers do. Upon my faith, this is the case, and some of the Spectators *to the AUDIENCE* , i' faith, you know full well that I tell no lie in this. There with them is the struggle and the valour, to carry oft a booty from the plunderers. But we again nicely give a like return to these robbers of us; for they themselves look on, while we are heaping up their property; indeed, of their own accord even do they themselves bring it to us.

DINARCHUS
apart . In those words she's surely lashing myself; for I've been heaping up presents there.

ASTAPHIUM
in answer to some one who calls from PHRONESIUM'S house . I well recollect it. I' troth, his own self, if he's at home, I'll at once bring here with me. *Runs on.*

DINARCHUS

calling out . Hallo! Astaphium, do stop a moment, before you go away.

ASTAPHIUM
Who's calling me back?

DINARCHUS
You shall know; look back this way.

ASTAPHIUM
Who is it?

DINARCHUS
One who wishes many a blessing to yourselves.

ASTAPHIUM
Give them then, if you wish us to have them.

DINARCHUS
I'll let you have them. Only do look back this way.

ASTAPHIUM
O dear, you're teazing wretched me to death, whoever you are. *Runs on.*

DINARCHUS
Worst of women, stop.

ASTAPHIUM
Best of men, go on; you are troublesome. *Turns round.* Is that Dinarchus? Why, it is he.

DINARCHUS
He's going to your house; and do you give me your hand *holding out his* in return, and walk together with me.

ASTAPHIUM
I am your servant, and am obedient to your command. *Gives her*

hand.

DINARCHUS
Yourself, how are you?

ASTAPHIUM
I'm well, and am holding by the hand one who's well. Since you've arrived from abroad, a dinner must be given.

DINARCHUS
You speak obligingly.

ASTAPHIUM
But, prithee, do let me go whither she ordered me. *Withdrawing her hand.*

DINARCHUS
lets go her hand . Be off then. But how say you- -?

ASTAPHIUM
What do you want?

DINARCHUS
He, that you are on your road to, who is it that you're going to fetch?

ASTAPHIUM
Achiva, the midwife.

DINARCHUS
You are an artful damsel.

ASTAPHIUM
I'm as usual then; that's my practice.

DINARCHUS
You deceitful hussy, I've caught you detected in a lie.

ASTAPHIUM
How so, pray?

DINARCHUS
Because you said that you were going to bring “his own self,” and not “herself.” A woman, then, has been made out of a man. You are an artful one.

ASTAPHIUM
A conjurer!

DINARCHUS
But, pray, tell me, Astaphium who is this person? A new lover?

ASTAPHIUM
I think that you are a gentleman too much at his ease.

DINARCHUS
Why now do you think so?

ASTAPHIUM
Because you trouble yourself about things that don’t concern your own clothing and food.

DINARCHUS
It’s yourselves have made me a gentleman at ease.

ASTAPHIUM
Why so?

DINARCHUS
I’ll explain it to you. I’ve lost my property; with my property you’ve robbed me of occupation. If I had preserved my property, there had been something with which I might have been occupied.

ASTAPHIUM
And do you suppose that you can possibly well manage the affairs of state, or those of love, on any other terms without being a gentleman at ease?

DINARCHUS

It was she held a public employment, not I; you misinterpret me. But, against the law, in spite of my tax paid for pasturage, she has received other cattle beside myself.

ASTAPHIUM
Most persons who manage their property badly, do the same as you are doing; when they haven't wherewith to pay the tax, they blame the farmers of the taxes.

DINARCHUS
My pasturage contract with you turns out but badly; now in its turn, I wish to have, according to my narrow circumstances, a little bit of arable land here with you.

ASTAPHIUM
Here is no arable, but the field is pasture land. If you desire some ploughing, you had better go to those who are in the habit of ploughing; we hold this public emolument, the right of pasturage; those are farmers of other taxes.

DINARCHUS
Full well enough do I know both sides.

ASTAPHIUM
I' troth, it's that way you are a gentleman at ease, since you've been going wrong both in that direction and in this. But the acquaintance of which do you like the best?

DINARCHUS
You are the more exacting, but they are perjured. Whatever's given to them is lost outright, nor with themselves is there any show at all of it; you, if you gain anything, do at least drink and feast it away. In short, they are unprincipled; you are good-for-nothings, and full of airs.

ASTAPHIUM
All this abuse which, Dinarchus, you are uttering against us and them, you utter against yourself, both as respects us and them.

DINARCHUS
How's that?

ASTAPHIUM
I'll tell the reason; because he who accuses another of dishonesty, him it behoves to look into himself. You who are so prudent, have got nothing from us; we, who are good-for-nothings, have got all out of you.

DINARCHUS
O Astaphium! you were not in the habit of speaking to me in that fashion formerly, but courteously, when I myself possessed that which is now in your possession.

ASTAPHIUM
While he's alive, you may know a person; when he's dead, you may keep yourself quiet. I used to know you when you were alive.

DINARCHUS
Do you consider me to be dead?

ASTAPHIUM
Prithee, how can it be plainer? He who formerly was esteemed a first-rate lover, for him to be bringing to his mistress nought but lamentations.

DINARCHUS
I' faith, through your own faults it was done, who in former days were in haste to plunder me. You ought to have done it leisurely, that, unscathed, I might last the longer for you.

ASTAPHIUM
A lover is like an enemy's fortress.

DINARCHUS
On what ground?

ASTAPHIUM

The sooner the lover can be taken by storm, the better it is for the mistress.

DINARCHUS
I confess it; but far different is the friend from the lover. I' faith, for sure, the oldest friend's the best one possible for a man. I' faith, my lands and tenements are not yet all gone.

ASTAPHIUM
Why then, prithee, are you standing before the door as a stranger and an alien? Do go in-doors. Really you are no stranger; for, upon my faith, not one person this day does she more love in her heart and soul — *aside* if, indeed, you've got land and tenements.

DINARCHUS
Your tongues and talk are steeped in honey; your doings and dispositions are steeped in gall and sour vinegar. From your tongues you utter sweet words; you make your lovers of bitter heart if any don't give you presents.

ASTAPHIUM
I've not learnt to say what's false.

DINARCHUS
It was not this liberality of mine that taught you to say what's false, but those niggardly fellows who are struggling against their appetites. You are a sly one, and the same artful coaxer that you used to be.

ASTAPHIUM
How ardently longed for have you returned from abroad! But, prithee, do come, my mistress wants to see you.

DINARCHUS
How so, pray?

ASTAPHIUM
You alone of all mankind does she love.

DINARCHUS
aside . Well done, lands and tenements; you have come to my aid in good time. *To ASTAPHIUM.* But how say you, Astaphium —— ?

ASTAPHIUM
What do you want?

DINARCHUS
Is Phronesium in-doors just now?

ASTAPHIUM
To you at all events she's in-doors.

DINARCHUS
Is she well?

ASTAPHIUM
Aye, faith, and I do believe she'll be still better when she sees you.

DINARCHUS
This is our greatest fault: when we're in love, then we are undone; if that which we wish is told us, when manifestly they are telling lies, in our folly we believe it to be true; verily as though with a tide we fluctuate.

ASTAPHIUM
Heyday now — such is not the fact.

DINARCHUS
Do you say that she loves me?

ASTAPHIUM
Aye, you only, alone.

DINARCHUS
I heard that she was brought to bed.

ASTAPHIUM

Oh, prithee, Dinarchus, do hold your tongue.

DIN,
Why so?

ASTAPHIUM
I shudder in my alarm, as often as mention is made of childbirth, with such difficulty has Phronesium survived for you. Prithee, do come in-doors now; do go to see her and wait there a little. She'll be out just now; for she was at the bath.

DINARCHUS
What do you say? She who was never pregnant, how could she be brought to bed? For really, I never, that I am aware of, perceived her to be in a breeding state.

ASTAPHIUM
She concealed it from you and was afraid, lest you should persuade her to have recourse to abortion, and so destroy the child.

DINARCHUS
Troth then, who's the father of this child?

ASTAPHIUM
A Babylonian Captain, whose arrival she is now expecting. So much so, indeed, that, according as was reported, they say that he'll be here just now. I wonder he has not arrived by this.

DINARCHUS
Shall I go in, then?

ASTAPHIUM
Why not? As boldly as at home, into your own house; for even still are you now one of us, Dinarchus.

DINARCHUS
How soon are you on your return?

ASTAPHIUM
I'll be there this instant; it's close at hand where I was going.

DINARCHUS
But do return directly; meanwhile I'll wait for you at your house. *He goes into the house of PHRONESIUM.*

ACT II.

ASTAPHIUM, alone.

ASTAPHIUM
laughing . Ha, ha, ha! I'm at rest, since my plague has gone in-doors; now, indeed, I shall speak according to my own inclination, freely, as I please. My mistress has sung a funeral dirgeat our house for this fellow, her lover, over his estate; for his lands and tenements are mortgaged for his treats in his amour. But with him does my mistress speak freely upon the objects of her plans, and so he is rather a friend by way of counsel to her than by way of maintenance. While he had it, he gave; now he has got nothing; what he did have, we have got; what we had, he has now got the same. The common course of things has happened. For. tunes are wont to change upon the instant. Life is checquered. We remember him as rich, and he us as poor; our reminiscences have shifted places. He must be a fool to wonder at it. If he is in want, it's necessary that he should allow us to make a living; that's proper to be done. 'Twere a disgrace for us to have compassion on men that squander away their fortunes. A clever Procuress ought to have good teeth; to smile upon whoever comes, to address him in flattering terms; to design mischief in her heart, but to speak fairly with her tongue. A Courtesan it befits to be like a briar; whatever man she touches, for either mischief or loss certainly to be the result. A Courtesan ought never to listen to the plea of a lover, but, when he has nothing to give, do you pack him off home from service as a deserter; and never is any gallant good for anything unless he's one who is the enemy of his own fortune. It's trifling, if, when he has just given, he doesn't take a pleasure in giving afresh. That person's esteemed with us who forgets that that has been given which he has given. As long as he has anything, so long let him go on loving; when he has got nothing, then let him look out another employment; if he himself has got nothing, let him, with a contented mind, make way for others who have. He's a proper lover who, neglecting his affairs, squanders away his property. But among themselves the men declare that we act ill, and are greedy. Prithee,

do we in fact at all act ill? For, by my troth, never did any lover whatever give enough to his mistress; nor, i' faith, have we ever received enough, nor has any woman ever asked for enough. For when a gallant is barren with his gifts * * * * * If he denies that he has anything to give, alone * * * * * Nor do we receive enough, when a person has not enough to give us. It is ever our duty to look after fresh givers, who take from untouched treasures, and make presents to us. Just like this young man from the country, who dwells here *pointing to the house where STRABAX lives* , i' faith, a very pleasant creature, and a very bounteous giver. But he, without the knowledge of his father, even this very last night, leapt over the wall by way of the garden, and came to our house. I wish to meet with him. But one servant has he, a very great savage, who, when he sees any one of us near the door, if you approach that way, drives us off just as he scares the geese away with his noise from the corn; he's such a bumpkin. But come what may, I'll knock at the door. *Knocks at the door, and calls.* Who, I wonder, has the keeping of this door? Is anybody coming out from in-doors?

Enter STRATILAX, from the house of the FATHER of STRABAX.

STRATOPHANES
Who's this, that's so sturdily plying his batteringram against our door?

ASTAPHIUM
It's I. Look round at me.

STRATOPHANES
Who's I?

ASTAPHIUM
Am I not seen by you?

STRATOPHANES
turning to her . Woe worth thee! What mean you by this coming so near this door, or why's this knocking?

ASTAPHIUM
Health to you.

STRATOPHANES
Enow of thy health have I; I care nought for't, I've got no health; I'd rather be sick, than be a bit the sounder with health from thee. This I want to know, what's owing thee here in our house?

ASTAPHIUM
Do keep close ——

STRATOPHANES
Yea, faith, to my own good woman I trust; let him keep close to thee whose habit 'tis. A rare fine joke! a silly hussy to be tempting a countryman to naughty tricks.

ASTAPHIUM
Keep close your anger, I meant.

STRATOPHANES
As thee'st begun with me, so I'd e'en lay a wager there's not another like thee.

ASTAPHIUM
half to herself . Really this fellow's very churlish.

STRATOPHANES
Woman, dost thee go on abusing me?

ASTAPHIUM
Why, what did I say to you?

STRATOPHANES
Why, because thee dost call me churlish. Therefore now, if thee doesn't be off this instant, and tell me quickly what thee want'st, adzookers, woman, I'll be, here this very instant, trampling thee beneath my feet like a sow her piglings.

ASTAPHIUM
This is indeed right country, and no mistake; 'tis an abominable and truly a monkey race.

STRATOPHANES
holding up his fist . Dost thee throw the country in my teeth, when thee hast found a man who's ashamed of what's foul? Hast thee come hither to tempt me with thy decked out bones? Was it for that, shameless slut, thee dyed thy mantle of its smoke-dried colour, or art thee so fine because that thee's been a stealing? Come thee towards me then.

ASTAPHIUM
Now you charm me.

STRATOPHANES
How much I wish I could charm thee.

ASTAPHIUM
You tell a lie.

STRATOPHANES
Tell me ——

ASTAPHIUM
What?

STRATOPHANES
What I ask thee. Dost thee wish to be taken for a bondswoman, who dost carry on thee those rings? *Pointing to her fingers.*

ASTAPHIUM
They give them to those who are worthy.

STRATOPHANES
These are the spoils of Laverna which thee dost possess. *Lays hold of her.*

ASTAPHIUM
Don't be touching me. *Moving away.*

STRATOPHANES
I, touch thee? So help me my weeding-hoe, I'd rather i' the country for me to be harnessed like an ox with crumpled horns, and with it spend the livelong night upon the straw, than that a hundred nights with thee, with a dinner apiece, were given me for nothing! But what business, woman, hast thee at our house? Why dost thee come running this way as often as we come to town?

ASTAPHIUM
I want to meet with your women.

STRATOPHANES
What women art thee talking to me about, when there's not even a single woman-fly within the house?

ASTAPHIUM
What, does no woman live here?

STRATOPHANES
They've gone into the country, I say. Be off.

ASTAPHIUM
Why are you bawling out, you lunatic?

STRATOPHANES
If thee doesn't make haste to get away from this with prodigious speed, I'll forthwith be separating even from thy brains those falsified, daintily arranged, corkscrew curls of thine, with all their grease as well.

ASTAPHIUM
For what reason, pray?

STRATOPHANES
Why, because thee hast even presumed to approach our door

anointed up with thine unguents, and because thee hast those cheeks so nicely, painted pink.

ASTAPHIUM
I' troth, it was by reason of your clamour that I coloured in my alarm.

STRATOPHANES
And is it so? Thee coloured? As though, hussy, thee really hadst left to thy skin the power of receiving any colour. Redden up thy cheeks, thee hast given all thy skin its colour with chalk. Ye are scoundrelly jades. What's the reason, abominable hussies, that this way * * * * * ? I know more than thee think'st I know.

ASTAPHIUM
Prithee, what's this that you know?

STRATOPHANES
How Strabax, my master's son, is ruining himself at your house; how you are all enticing him to fraud and present-making.

ASTAPHIUM
If you appeared in your senses, I'd tell you. You're uttering abuse only; not a person is in the habit of being ruined here at our house; they waste their property; when they've wasted their property, they may go bare thence, if they choose. I don't know this young man of yours.

STRATOPHANES
Indeed so.

ASTAPHIUM
In sober truth.

STRATOPHANES
Aye, but that garden wall that's in our garden says so, which is becoming every night less by a brick, over which he travels to your house on the road to destruction.

ASTAPHIUM
The wall's an old one; it isn't wonderful if the bricks, being old, do tumble down.

STRATOPHANES
And says thee, hussy, that old bricks do tumble down? By my fakes, may never any mortal man henceforth trust me upon the two grand points, if I don't inform of these goings on of yours to my elder master.

ASTAPHIUM
Is he a savage as well?

STRATOPHANES
Why, he didn't get his money by enriching harlots, but by thriftiness, and living hard; which now, however, is being carried off to you, abominable jades. *Takes her by the shoulders and shakes her.* There's for thee, six-clawed hussy; a wretched life to both of ye. Am I to keep mum about these matters? But, lookye now, I'll be off to the Forum at once and tell these goings on to the old gentleman, that he mayn't somehow be cherishing within this matting a whole swarm of misfortunes. *(Exit.)*

ASTAPHIUM
to herself . Upon my faith, if this fellow were living on mustard, I don't think he could possibly be as snappish. But, i' troth, how much a well-wisher to his master he is. Still, although he is a savage, I trust that he can be changed by coaxing, allurements, and other arts of the courtesan. I've seen a horse from unruly become tamed, and other brutes as well. Now I'll go back to see my mistress. But see, my plague's coming out. *The door of PHRONESIUM'S house is opened.* He's coming out with a sad air; he hasn't even yet had a meeting with Phronesium.

Enter DINARCHUS, from PHRONESIUM'S house.

DINARCHUS
I do believe that the fishes, that are always bathing as long as they

live, do not take so long in bathing as this Phronesium does in bathing. If women could be loved on as long as they take in bathing, all lovers would be becoming bath-keepers.

ASTAPHIUM
Can't you endure waiting for a short time even?

DINARCHUS
Why, 'pon my faith, I'm wretchedly tired with waiting already.

ASTAPHIUM
I, as well, shall be obliged to go bathe from weariness

DINARCHUS
But, i' faith, Astaphium, prithee do go in-doors and tell her that I'm here. Do go at once, and persuade her that she has bathed long enough by this.

ASTAPHIUM
Very well. *Going.* DIN. And do you hear as well?

ASTAPHIUM
What do you want? *Comes back.* DIN. May the Gods confound me for calling you back. I had nothing to say to you, only do be off.

ASTAPHIUM
Why did you call me back then, you worthless and good-for-nothing fellow? A delay to me which has produced fully a mile's delay to you. *Goes into the house of PHRONESIUM.*

DINARCHUS
to himself. But yet why was she standing here so long before the house? Some one, I don't know who, she certainly was waiting for; the Captain, I suppose. That's it; see now, how, just like vultures, a whole three days beforehand they foresee on what day they are to have a feast. They're all agape for him; on him are all their minds fixed. No one will be giving any more attention to myself, when he comes, than if I had been dead two hundred years ago. How

delightful a thing it is to keep one's money! Ah wretched me! after it's done I'm punished, who lost what I once had. But now, if any great and splendid fortune should chance to fall to my lot, now, after I know it, what sweets and what bitters come of money, by my troth, I'd so keep it, I'd live in a manner so sparing, that —— in a few days I'd make there to be none at all. I'd then confute those who now censure me. But I perceive that this tide-like door is opening *the door of PHRONESIUM'S house is opened* , which sucks up whatever comes within its bolts.

Enter PHRONESIUM, from her house.

PHRONESIUM
Please now, is my door apt to bite, that you are afraid to come in, my love?

DINARCHUS
aside. Behold the spring! How all blooming it is! how fragrantly does it smell! how brightly does it shine.

PHRONESIUM
Why so ill-mannered, as not, on your arrival from Lemnos, to give a kiss to your mistress, my Dinarchus?

DINARCHUS
aside . O dear, by my troth, I'm being punished now, and most terribly ——

PHRONESIUM
Why do you turn yourself away?

DINARCHUS
My greetings to you, Phronesium.

PHRONESIUM
Greetings to you as well. Will you dine here to-day, as you've arrived in safety?

DINARCHUS
I'm engaged.

PHRONESIUM
Where will you dine then?

DINARCHUS
Wherever you request me; here.

PHRONESIUM
You'll give me pleasure by doing so. *They take their places at a collation spread before the house.*

DINARCHUS
I' troth, myself still more. You'll give me your company to-day, I suppose, my Phronesium?

PHRONESIUM
If it could possibly be done, I would.

DINARCHUS
Give me my shoes then — make haste, remove the table.

PHRONESIUM
Are you in your senses, pray?

DINARCHUS
By heavens, I cannot drink now; so sick at heart am I.

PHRONESIUM
Stay; something shall be done. Don't go.

DINARCHUS
Ah, you've refreshed me with cold water! My senses have now returned. Take off my shoes; give me something to drink.

PHRONESIUM
By my faith, you are just the same that you used to be. But tell me,

have you sped successfully?

DINARCHUS
I' troth, successfully enough, indeed, hither to you, inasmuch as I enjoy the opportunity of seeing you.

PHRONESIUM
Embrace me then.

DINARCHUS
With pleasure. He embraces her.) Oil, this is honey sweeter than sweet honey In this, Jove, my fortune does exceed thine own!

PHRONESIUM
Won't you give me a kiss?

DINARCHUS
Aye, ten even. *Kisses her.*

PHRONESIUM
You are not niggardly in that. You promise more than I ask of you. *Turns away her head.*

DINARCHUS
I only wish that from the first I had been as sparing of my property, as you are now thrifty of your kisses.

PHRONESIUM
If I could possibly cause you any saving, i' troth, I could wish it done.

DINARCHUS
Have you bathed then?

PHRONESIUM
I' troth, indeed I have then, to my own satisfaction and that of my eyes. Do I seem to be loathsome to you?

DINARCHUS
I' faith, not to myself indeed; but I remember that there was once a time when between ourselves we were loathsome, the one to the other. But what doing of yours is this I've heard upon my arrival? What new matter have you been scheming here in my absence?

PHRONESIUM
Why, what is it?

DINARCHUS
In the first place, that you've been blessed with children, and that you've safely got over it, I'm delighted.

PHRONESIUM
to some ATTENDANTS near the door . Go you away from there into the house, and shut the door. *They go in, and shut the door.* You now alone are left to be present at my communication; to you I've ever entrusted my designs. For my own part, I've neither had any child nor have I been pregnant; but I've pretended that I was pregnant; I wasn't though.

DINARCHUS
For what reason, O my life?

PHRONESIUM
On account of a Babylonian Captain, who kept me as though his wife for a year, while he was here.

DINARCHUS
That I knew. But what means this? For what purpose was your design in pretending this?

PHRONESIUM
That there might be a certain bond and tie for him to be returning to me again. Now he has lately sent me a letter hither, that he'll make trial how much I value him. If I should raise and bring up the child which I should bear, that then I should have all his property.

DINARCHUS
I listen with pleasure. In fine, what is it you are contriving?

PHRONESIUM
My mother ordered the servant-maids, since now the tenth month is arriving close at hand, each to go in some different direction, to seek out and bespeak a boy or a girl, to be passed off as my own. Why need I make many words? You know Syra, the female hair-dresser, who now lives hard by our house?

DINARCHUS
I know her.

PHRONESIUM
She, with the utmost care, went about among the families, and secretly found out a child, and brought it to me. She said it was given to her.

DINARCHUS
O shocking traffic! She then hasn't borne this child who at first did bear it, but you who come afterwards.

PHRONESIUM
You have the whole matter in its order. Now, as the Captain has sent a message before to me, he'll be here no long time hence.

DINARCHUS
Now, in the mean time, you are treating yourself here as though one who had just lain in?

PHRONESIUM
Why not, when, without trouble, the matter can be nicely managed? It's proper that every one should be alive at his own trade.

DINARCHUS
What's to become of me when the Captain comes? Forsaken, can I live without you?

PHRONESIUM
When I've got from him that which I want, I shall easily find a way how to create discord and a separation between us; after that, my delight, I shall be always at your side.

DINARCHUS
Aye, faith, but I'd rather it were at my couch.

PHRONESIUM
Moreover, I wish to sacrifice to-day to the Deities for the child, on this the fifth day, as is proper to be done.

DINARCHUS
I think you ought.

PHRONESIUM
Can't you venture to give me some trifling present?

DINARCHUS
Upon my faith, my delight, I seem to be making a gain for myself when you ask anything of me.

PHRONESIUM
aside . And I, when I've got it.

DINARCHUS
I'll take care it shall be here just now. I'll send my servant hither.

PHRONESIUM
Do so.

DINARCHUS
But whatever it shall be, do take it in good part.

PHRONESIUM
I troth, I'm sure that you'll give all attention to your present, of which I shan't be ashamed so long as you send it to me.

DINARCHUS
Do you wish anything else of me?

PHRONESIUM
That, when you have leisure, you'll come again to see me.

DINARCHUS
Fare you well.

PHRONESIUM
Farewell. *Goes into her house.*

DINARCHUS
to himself . O immortal Gods! 'twere the part not of a woman in love, but of a partner of kindred feelings and confiding, to do what she just now has done for me, in disclosing to me the palming of the child upon the Captain, — a thing that a sister entrusts not to her own born sister. She discloses herself now to me from her very soul, that she will never prove faithless to me so long as she exists. Ought I not to love her? Ought I not to wish her well? I'll rather not love myself, than that love should be wanting for her. Shall I not send her a present? This instant, then, I'll order five minæ to be brought to her from my house, besides catering to the amount of a mina at least. Much rather shall kindness be shown to her who wishes kindly to me, than to myself, who do every mischief to myself. *(Exit.)*

Enter PHRONESIUM, from her house.

PHRONESIUM
speaking at the door to the SERVANTS within . Give the breast to that child. *To herself, coming forward.* How wretchedly and anxiously are mothers distressed in mind. I' faith, 'twas craftily contrived; and when I revolve this matter in my mind, we are accounted to be much less artful than we naturally are in disposition. I'm now speaking of what, but lately, for the first time, I've been taught at home; how great is my anxiety of mind, what pangs I do feel in my heart, lest through the death of the child the plot should fail. Because I'm styled its mother, for that reason am I the more

anxious for its life, who have ventured thus secretly to attempt a stratagem so great. In my avarice, for the sake of gain, have I entered on this disgraceful scheme; the pangs of others have I falsely shammed for myself. You must attempt nothing by craftiness, unless you would carry it out with cunning and with care. *To the AUDIENCE.* You yourselves now see in what garb I go; I'm now pretending that I'm an invalid from having lain in. A thing that a woman attempts to do in fraud, unless she is perfect in carrying it out, that same is as bad as disease to her, that same is as bad as old age to her, that to her, wretched creature, is wretchedness: if she begins to do what's right, soon does weariness of it overtake her. How very few are tired who have commenced to do what's wrong; how very few carry it out, if they have commenced to do anything aright. To a female it is a much less burden to do bad than good. In that I'm an artful one, through the agency of my mother and my own artful disposition am I artful, who have thus feigned to the Babylonian Captain that I am pregnant. I wish now the Captain may find this artful plot concocted well. He'll be here no long time hence, I suppose; forewarned of that I'm now forearmed, and I'm wearing this garb, as though I had just lain in in pregnancy. *Calls to the SERVANTS within.* Bring me hither some myrrh and fire for the altar, that I may pay adoration to my Lucina. *They bring it.* Place it here *pointing to an altar near the door* , and go out of my sight. Ho there! Pithecium, help me to lay me down. Come hither; thus is it proper to help one who has just lain in. *A couch is brought in by ASTAPHIUM and two HANDMAIDS, and she lays herself down.* Take off my sandals; throw a coverlet here over me, Archylis. Astaphium, where are you? Bring me hither, holy herbs, frankincense, and sweetmeats. Bring water for my hands. *The SERVANTS go and fetch the things as ordered.* Now, i' faith, I could wish that the Captain should come. *The SERVANTS stand aside.*

Enter STRATOPHANES, at a distance, followed by a SERVANT and several FEMALE SLAVES.

STRATOPHANES
to the AUDIENCE . Don't you be expecting, Spectators, that I should

recount my combats; with my hands in battle I'm wont to recount them, and not in words. I know that many a soldier have told lies; both the Homeric poetlings, and a thousand others besides them could be named, who have been both convicted and condemned for their sham battles. He's not to be commended who trusts another any further than he sees. It pleases me not when those commend more who hear than those who see; of more value is one eye-witness than ten hearsays. Those who hear, speak of what they've heard; those who see, know beyond mistake. I like him not whom the town-gossips are praising, and the men of his maniple are mum about; nor yet those whose tongues at home make blunt the edge of our swords. The valiant are much more serviceable to the public than the eloquent and skilled. Valour easily finds for itself a fluent eloquence; without valour, for my own part, I esteem an eloquent citizen as a hired mourner, who praises other people, but can't do the same for herself. Now, after ten months, am I come to Athens of Attica to see my mistress, how she gets on, whom I left pregnant by my embrace.

PHRONESIUM
raising herself on the couch, and speaking to ASTAPHIUM . See who's talking.

ASTAPHIUM
coming forward, and looking about . The Captain's now close at hand, my mistress Phronesium: Stratophanes is coming to you. *In a low voice.* Now is it requisite for you to pretend yourself an invalid.

PHRONESIUM
in a low voice . Hold your tongue. What, the plague, de I want you for as an adviser in this matter? Is it possible to excel myself in craftiness?

STRATOPHANES
to himself . Madam's brought to bed, as I fancy.

ASTAPHIUM
it a low voice . Would you like me to accost the gentleman?

PHRONESIUM
I wish you. *ASTAPHIUM moves forward.*

STRATOPHANES
O delightful! Why, see, here's Astaphium coming to meet me.

ASTAPHIUM
affecting surprise . By all the powers! welcome to you, Stratophanes, that you're safe arrived ——

STRATOPHANES
I know it all. But, prithee, has Phronesium been brought to bed?

ASTAPHIUM
She has been delivered of a very fine boy.

STRATOPHANES
Is it like me at all?

ASTAPHIUM
Do you ask the question? Why, the moment it was born, it asked for a sabre and shield for itself.

STRATOPHANES
It's my own; I know it at once from the proofs.

ASTAPHIUM
Indeed it is extremely like you.

STRATOPHANES
Ye Gods above! Is it of full growth already? Has it already chosen some army which it intends to plunder?

ASTAPHIUM
Why really, it was only born five days ago.

STRATOPHANES
What then, after it was born? After so many days, i' faith, something

really ought by this time to have been done. What business had it to leave the womb before it could go forth to battle?

ASTAPHIUM
Follow me, and wish her joy, and congratulate her.

STRATOPHANES
I follow. *They move to the other side of the stage.*

PHRONESIUM
in a faint voice . Prithee, where is she who has left me here and forsaken me? AST. I'm here; I'm bringing you Stratophanes, so much longed for by you.

PHRONESIUM
Prithee, where is he?

STRATOPHANES
going close to the couch . Mars, on his arrival from abroad, salutes Neriene his spouse. Since you've well got over it, and since you've been blest with offspring, I congratulate you in that you have given birth to a great glory to me and to yourself.

PHRONESIUM
Welcome to you, you who have almost deprived me of life and light; and who have, for your own gratification, centred in my body the cause of great anguish, with the pangs of which I'm even now dreadfully afflicted.

STRATOPHANES
Well, well; not to your misfortune, my love, do these pains befall you. You've brought forth a son who'll be filling your house with plunder.

PHRONESIUM
By the powers, there's very much greater need to have our granaries well filled with wheat; lest, before he takes the plunder, hunger should be putting an end to us here.

STRATOPHANES
Be of good heart.

PHRONESIUM
Do, please, take a kiss from me here. I cannot lift up my head; such pain I've felt, and in such pain I now am; and I cannot as yet, of my own strength, walk upon my feet.

STRATOPHANES
stooping down, and kissing her . If, right from the middle of the sea, you were to order me to take a kiss from you, I would not hesitate to fetch it, my sweet. You've experienced it already so to be; and now shall you experience it, my Phronesium, that I do dote upon you. *Pointing to a distance behind him.* See there, I've brought you two female slaves from Syria; I present you with them. *To a SERVANT behind him.* Do you bring those women this way. Now, these were both of them queens at their own homes; but with my own hand I laid waste their country, I present you with them. *Handing them forward to her.*

PHRONESIUM
Are you dissatisfied with the number of female slaves I have already, that you must be still making additions to the number, to be devouring food for me?

STRATOPHANES
I' troth, if this indeed isn't acceptable to you, you boy *beckoning to the SERVANT* , do you give me that bag. See here, my love, I've brought this mantle from Panchæa for you. Take it for yourself. *He presents it to her.*

PHRONESIUM
What, is so little as this to be given me in return for pain so great?

STRATOPHANES
aside . I' faith, to my misfortune, I'm undone! My son's already costing me his weight in gold. *To PHRONESIUM.* Do you still set such little value on me? I've brought you a purple garment from

Sarra, and two pretty ones from Pontus. *Takes the garments from the SERVANT, and presents them.* Take this for yourself, my love. *To the SERVANT.* Take those Syrian women hence out of my sight. *The SERVANT takes them into the house.* Do you love me at all?

PHRONESIUM
Not at all, i' faith; nor do you deserve it.

STRATOPHANES
aside . What, is nothing enough for her? Really, to myself she hasn't even said one word. I do believe that these presents would sell for more than twenty minæ, which I have given her. Now she's desperately enraged with me I perceive and understand it; but I'll address her still. *To PHRONESIUM.* What say you then? Do you wish me, my love, to go to dinner where I was invited, and after that to return hither to your house to sleep? Why are you silent? *Aside.* I' troth, beyond a doubt, I'm undone. But what fine affair is this? Who's this fellow that's leading such a long train? I'm resolved to watch whither they are taking it. It's being brought to her, I do believe; but I'll soon know more. *He stands at a distance.*

Enter GETA, at a distance, followed by SLAVES with presents from DINARCHUS.

GETA
Get on, get on this way together with you, mules laden with money only to be squandered, you emptyers out of the house, you carriers off of property by waggon-loads! *To the AUDIENCE.* And can't he who is in love do without being good for nought, and cleaning himself out by his disgraceful practices? But how I know this, don't any one be asking that of me; we've a lover at home, who's engaged in disgraceful pursuits; who esteems property just as dung: he's in dread of the public officers; most cleanly in his ways is he. He wishes his house to be cleaned out; whatever he has at home, it's swept completely "dehors." Since he himself is sending his own self to ruin, for my part, i' faith, I'll help him by stealth, and not through my assistance, indeed, shall he be ruined e'en a bit the less speedily than

he may. For now from these provisions, from the one mina I've just now abstracted five didrachms; I've deducted for myself the Herculean share. But this is just like as though a person should turn off a stream for himself from a river; if it is not turned off into a channel, still all that water would go into the sea. For this is going into the sea, and is being utterly wasted to no good purpose whatever. When I see these things going on, I pilfer, I purloin, from plunder I plunder take. I take a harlot to be just like what the sea is; what you give her she swallows down, and yet never overflows. But this at least the sea does preserve; what's in it is seen. Give her as much as ever you please, it's never seen either by the giver or the acceptor. For instance, this harlot by her blandishments has reduced my poor master to poverty; has robbed him of fortune, life, honor, and friends. *Catching sight of her.* Heyday! why look, she's close by. I do think she has heard me saying all this. She's pale, as she has been delivered of a child. I'll address her, as though I didn't know her. *Addressing PHRONESIUM.* I present you my respects.

PHRONESIUM
Our Geta, what is it you're about? How are you?

GETA
I'm well, and I'm come to one who's not so well, and I'm bringing something with which she may get well. My master, the apple of your eye, bade me bring these presents to you, which you see those persons carrying, and these five minæ of silver.

PHRONESIUM
I' faith, it's not thrown away, that I'm so very fond of him.

GETA
He bade me beg that you would accept these in kind part.

PHRONESIUM
I' troth, I do accept them kindly and thankfully. *To CYAMUS, who comes out of the house.* Go, Cyamus, and order them to be taken in-doors. Do you hear at all this which has been ordered? *The*

SERVANTS take up the things.

GETA
I don't want them to take away the vessels; I'd like to have them emptied.

PHRONESIUM
An impudent fellow, i' faith, how busy he is.

GETA
What? do you say that I'm impudent, you who yourself are a receptacle of villany?

PHRONESIUM
Tell me, I beg of you, where is Dinarchus?

GETA
At home.

PHRONESIUM
Tell him, that, for these presents which he has sent me, I love him the most of all men, and that in return I hold him in the highest esteem of all, and entreat that he will come hither to me.

GETA
This instant. But who's that person, pray *(looking towards STRATOPHANES)* , that's devouring himself, scowling with malignant eyes I' faith, the man's distressed in his mind, whoever he is.

PHRONESIUM
I' troth, he's deserving of it.

GETA
What's the matter?

PHRONESIUM
Prithee, don't you know? He that's yonder used to live with me; he,

there, is the father of my child. He ordered it to be brought up till about a before-daylight breakfast. I waited his coming, I listened to his injunctions; I attended to the child.

GETA
The good-for-nothing fellow that I knew so well, prithee, is that he?

PHRONESIUM
That's he.

GETA
He looks at me as he groans. He heaved a sigh from the very bottom of his breast. Observe that now; he gnashes his teeth; he strikes his thigh. Prithee, is he deranged, that he's beating his own self?

STRATOPHANES
coming forward . Now will I at once summon up my ungovernable indignation and my wrath from my breast! *To GETA.* Say, whence are you? To whom do you belong? Why have you dared to speak rudely against me?

GETA
It's my pleasure.

STRATOPHANES
Do you answer me in that way?

GETA
In this way *snaps his fingers* ; I don't care one straw for you.

STRATOPHANES
to PHRONESIUM. What say you? Why have you dared to say that you love another man?

PHRONESIUM
I chose to.

STRATOPHANES

Say you so, indeed? I'll first make trial of that. Do you, for the sake of such a shabby present, vegetables, and comestibles, and vinegar-water, bestow your love upon an effeminate, frizzle-pated, dark-haunt frequenting, drum-drubbing debauchee, a fellow not worth a nutshell?

GETA
What new thing's this? Do you dare, you rogue, to speak ill of my master, you spring-head of vice and perjury?

STRATOPHANES
Add a single word to that; by the powers, I'll that instant here with this cut you up into mincemeat upon the spot. *Shaking his sword at him.*

GETA
Only touch me; I'll that instant be making a lamb of you on the spot, and I'll slice you asunder in the middle. If you have the renown of a warrior with your troops, still I'm a Mars in the kitchen.

PHRONESIUM
to STRATOPHANES. If you did the thing that's right, you'd not be abusing my visitors, whose gifts I hold as acceptable and pleasing, and your own which I have received of you as unacceptable.

STRATOPHANES
Then, i' faith, I'm both deprived of my presents and undone as well!

GETA
Clearly it is so.

PHRONESIUM
Why then are you now here, with your annoyance, who confess that you are worsted in every point?

STRATOPHANES
aside . I' faith, I'm this day undone, if I don't drive this fellow away from you. *He approaches GETA.*

GETA
holding up his fist . Only approach this way; only step this way!

STRATOPHANES
Scoundrelly fellow, threatening even? Whom this very, very, very instant I'll be chopping up into splinters. What business have you coming here? What business have you to approach her? *Pointing to PHRONESIUM.* What business have you, I say, to be knowing my mistress? You shall die this instant if you make the slightest movement with your hand.

GETA
Why shouldn't I move my hand?

STRATOPHANES
Do as I commanded; stop; I'll this instant cut you up into mincemeat on the spot.

GETA
aside . I'm done for. STRAT. 'Twere best to be off.

GETA
It's a ticklish point; you have a longer sword there than this is *pointing to a knife in his girdle* ; but just let me go seek a spit, if indeed I must be having a battle with you. I'll be off home. Warrior, for me and you I'll choose an impartial judge. *Aside.* But why am I delaying to betake myself off hence, while with a safe inside I may? *(Exit.)*

PHRONESIUM and STRATOPHANES.

PHRONESIUM
to her SERVANTS . Give me my sandals, and take me at once indoors; for my head aches shockingly from the air.

STRATOPHANES
What's to become of me, to whom the two female slaves cause ache enough, with which I presented you? *PHRONESIUM is led into the*

house. Are you off then? Well thus one's used in return. How can you possibly shut me out, *The door is slammed to.* Prithee, can anything be more clear than that I'm now shut out? I'm finely fooled. Be it so. With how little difficulty *placing his foot against the door* might I now be persuaded to break the ankles of this entire mansion! Do the manners of covetous women change at all? Since she has brought forth a son, she has plucked her spirit up. Now it's as though she said to me, "I neither ask you nor forbid you to come into the house." But I won't — I shan't go — I'll make her to be saying in a very few days that I'm a cruel man. *To his ATTENDANTS.* Follow me this way. A word's enough. *(Exit.)*

ACT III.

Enter STRABAX.

STRABAX
to himself . One morning a short time since my father ordered me to go hence, to deal out the mast for food for the oxen. After I got there a person arrived at the farmhouse (so it pleased the Gods), who was owing money to my father, who had formerly purchased some Tarentine sheep of my father; he asked for my father; I said he was in the city; I enquired what he wanted with him. The fellow takes a purse from off his neck, and gives me twenty minæ; with pleasure I receive them, and stow them in my purse; these bad sheep, the minæ, have I brought in my purse hither to the city. By my troth, Mars has proved very angry with my father; for his sheep are not very far away from the wolves. Now, with this one stroke shall I send adrift those finical town gallants, and be bundling them all out of doors. My father, in the first place, I'm quite resolved to ruin, root and branch; then next in turn, my mother. Now to-day I'll carry this money to her whom I love more than my own mother. *Goes towards the door of PHRONESIUM, and knocks.* Hillo there — is any one here? There's not a woman. Is any one going to open this door? *opens the door.*

ASTAPHIUM
Why so a stranger, pray, my dear Strabax? Why don't you come in at once? Ought you to have been doing so, you, indeed, who are so intimate?

STRABAX
I'll go in then, that you mayn't think I'm loitering. *Goes into the house.*

ASTAPHIUM
You act obligingly.

Enter STRATILAX.

STRATOPHANES
to himself . It seems marvellous to me, that Strabax, my master's son, hasn't returned from the country, unless perchance he has slily slipt in here into this den of corruption of his.

ASTAPHIUM
aside . Now, faith, he'll be roaring at me if he espies me.

STRATOPHANES
I'm much less savage now, Astaphium, than I was before; I'm not churlish now; don't thee fear. *She runs to a distance.* What wouldst thee be at? What?

ASTAPHIUM
What, say you? Why, I'm waiting for your churlishness.

STRATOPHANES
Say, command me what thee dost please, and in what way thee dost please. I've got all my manners anew: my old ones I've parted with. I can e'en fall in love, or take a mistress now.

ASTAPHIUM
Upon my faith, you do tell me fine news. But tell me, have you ——
?

STRATOPHANES
A mistress, perhaps, thee means.

ASTAPHIUM
You've understood nicely what I meant to say.

STRATOPHANES
Hark you, since I've been so many times backwards and forwards to the city, I've become quite a chatterer; I'm now a right good stalkers.

ASTAPHIUM
Prithee, what's that? That's nonsense; perhaps you intend to mean "talking."

STRATOPHANES
Just so; it differs mighty little from stalking.

ASTAPHIUM
Prithee, do follow me in-doors, my love.

STRATOPHANES
holding out some money to her . Take this for thyself; keep it as a ledger for thee, that thee mayst give me thy company this night.

ASTAPHIUM
taking the money . You are the death of me, with your “ledger.” What kind of beast am I to say that is? Thy don’t you say “pledge?”

STRATOPHANES
The “r” I make a saving of; just as the Prænestines have “conia,” for “ciconia.”

ASTAPHIUM
Prithee, do follow me.

STRATOPHANES
I’ll wait here a little for Strabax, till he comes from the farm.

ASTAPHIUM
Why, Strabax is at our house. He has just come from the farm.

STRATOPHANES
What, before he went to his own mother? Alas, the man’s worth nought, i’ faith.

ASTAPHIUM
What now, your old habit?

STRATOPHANES
Well, I’ll say nought.

ASTAPHIUM

Prithee, do come indoors. Give me your hand. *Takes his hand.*

STRATOPHANES
Well, take it. *To the AUDIENCE.* I'm being led off into a public-house, where I shall be but poorly entertained for my money. *They go into the house of PHRONESIUM.*

ACT IV.

Enter DINARCHUS.

DIN,
to himself . There's not a person born, nor will there be born, nor can there be found one, to whom I would now wish praises to be given, or on whom attentions bestowed, rather than on Venus. Ye great Gods, how joyous I am, and how I'm transported with joyousness! Such great tidings of joy has Cyamus brought to me this day; that my presents have been esteemed and deemed acceptable by Phronesium. While this now is a delight, then besides this in especial is rare honey-drink to me, that the Captain's presents are held as disagreable and not acceptable. I'm all enraptured! The ball's my own; if the Captain's sent adrift, the woman will be mine. I'm saved, because I'm going to ruin; if I didn't go to ruin, it's clear I should die. Now I'll keep watch, what's going on there, who goes into the house, who comes out of doors; from here at a distance will I observe what is to be my lot. Because I've got nothing, my feelings remind me of one thing; I'll do everything by begging.

Enter ASTAPHIUM, from the house of PHRONESIUM.

ASTAPHIUM
speaking to her MISTRESS as she comes out . I'll cleverly do my duty, mistress; do you only take care that in-doors you do yours as well; love that which you ought, your own interest; clean that fellow thoroughly out. Now, while it pleases the fellow, while he has got something, adapt the opportunity to that purpose. Display all your charms to your lover that you may heighten his joys. I meantime will stay here behind and watch at this door so long as he is thus transporting his presents home to you; nor, in the meantime, will I admit any one from there to you who may cause you annoyance. Do you go on, just as you please. Are you not diddling these fellows?

DINARCHUS
How now, Astaphium, tell me, who is this fellow that's on the road

to ruin?

ASTAPHIUM
Prithee, were you here?

DINARCHUS
What — am I troublesome?

ASTAPHIUM
More now than you were; for unless a person is of use to us, he is troublesome to us. But, prithee, do lend me your attention, that I may say what I want.

DINARCHUS
Why, what is it? Does it concern myself?

ASTAPHIUM
Not a rap. But what hauls he is making present of m-doors.

DINARCHUS
How? Some new lover?

ASTAPHIUM
A fresh one, and a brimming treasure she has hit upon.

DINARCHUS
Who is he?

ASTAPHIUM
I'll tell you, but you be mum. Don't you know this Strabax? *Pointing to his FATHER'S house.*

DINARCHUS
Why shouldn't I?

ASTAPHIUM
He alone rules the roast here at our house. He just now is a landed estate to us. With right good spirit is he wantonly wasting away his

property.

DINARCHUS
He's on the road to ruin; i' faith, I, too, have come to ruin.

ASTAPHIUM
You are a simpleton, to expect with words to make undone what is done.

DINARCHUS
Even Thetis, too, in weeping, made lamentation for her son. Can I not now be admitted in-doors to your house?

ASTAPHIUM
Why so rather than the Captain?

DINARCHUS
Why, because I've given more.

ASTAPHIUM
But you were admitted more, when you were giving more; let those who give, in return for that which they give, enjoy our services. You've learnt your letters; since you know them yourself, let others learn them.

DINARCHUS
Let them learn, so long as it is allowed me to con my lesson, that I may not forget what I have paid for.

ASTAPHIUM
In the meantime, while you, who are a master, shall be conning your lesson, she, as well, is desirous to con hers.

DINARCHUS
How so?

ASTAPHIUM
In receiving money ever and anon.

DINARCHUS
For my own part, this very day I gave five minæ of silver to be carried to her, besides one for provisions.

ASTAPHIUM
I know that the same was brought; with it we are now enjoying ourselves upon your liberality.

DINARCHUS
For these enemies of mine here to be devouring my property! By heavens, I'd rather that I were dead than submit to that!

ASTAPHIUM
You are a simpleton.

DINARCHUS
How's that?

ASTAPHIUM
Wait.

DINARCHUS
Why so?

ASTAPHIUM
Because, I' troth, I'd rather that my enemies should envy me, than I my enemies; for to envy because it goes well with another, and goes badly with yourself, is wretchedness. Those who are envious, are in want; they who are envied, possess property.

DINARCHUS
May I not be a partaker of the provisions bought with the mina?

ASTAPHIUM
If you wanted to be a partaker, you should have taken half home. For here an account of the receipts is entered just as at Acheron; we take in-doors; when it's got by us, it can't be carried out of doors. *Turning on her heel.* Kindly farewell.

DINARCHUS
catching hold of her . Do stay.

ASTAPHIUM
struggling . Let me go! Leave off!

DINARCHUS
Do let me go in.

ASTAPHIUM
Yes, to your own house,

DINARCHUS
Aye, but here into your house.

ASTAPHIUM
You cannot go.

DINARCHUS
I can, very well. Do let me try.

ASTAPHIUM
No, wait here; it's sheer violence to try. I'd say that you are here, if she wasn't engaged. *Runs to the door.*

DINARCHUS
Ha! Do stop!

ASTAPHIUM
It's of no use,

DINARCHUS
Are you going to return or not?

ASTAPHIUM
I'd return, but a voice is calling me that has more influence with me than you have.

DINARCHUS

In one word I'll say it. You'll receive me?

ASTAPHIUM
You are telling a lie — be off. One word, you said; but now three words have you uttered, and those untrue. *Goes into the house, and shuts the door.*

DINARCHUS
to himself . She's off, and she's gone hence in- doors That I should endure these things to be done to me. By heavens, enticer, with my cries I'll be exposing you to ridicule in the street, you who, contrary to law, have received money from many a one. Upon my faith, I'll forthwith cause your name to be before every magistrate, and after that I'll sue you for fourfold, you sorceress, you kidnapper of children. By the powers, I'll now disclose all your disgraceful deeds. Worthless creature that I am, who have lost everything I had! I'm become desperate, and now I haven't the slightest bit of concern what shoes I wear. But why am I trying here? What, suppose she were to order me to be let in? I could swear in solemn form that I wouldn't do it if she wished. It's nonsense. If you thump a goad with your fists, your hands are hurt the most. It's no good to be angry at a thing of nothing; a creature that doesn't value you a straw. *Starting.* But what's this? O immortal Gods, I see old Callicles, him who was my connexion by marriage, bringing two female slaves in bonds, the one the hair-dresser of this Phronesium, the other his own servant-maid. I'm greatly alarmed! inasmuch as one care has so recently taken possession of my heart, I'm afraid lest all my former misdeeds should be discovered. *Stands aside.*

Enter CALLICLES, attended by SLAVES, with his MAID-SERVANT and SYRA, bound.

CALLICLES
to his SERVANT . Do I use ill language to you, or do I wish you so very ill? According to my ideas, you have both pretty well experienced how mild and gentle a person I am. I interrogated you both, as you were lashed and hanging up by the arms; I well

remember it; the way in which you quite confessed each point, I know. Here now, I wish in the same way to learn; do you confess without a punishment. Although you are both of you of the serpent nature, I tell you beforehand, you mustn't be having double tongues, lest with your two tongues I should be putting you to death; unless, perhaps, you wish to be taken to the men who go clink, clink.

A MAID-SERVANT of Callicles.
Violence forces me to confess the truth; the thongs do so gall my arms.

CALLICLES
But, if you confess the truth to me, you shall be relieved from the chains.

DINARCHUS
apart . Even now, what's the matter, I'm at a loss to know and uncertain; except that still I'm afraid.

SYRA
What I've done wrong I know not.

CALLICLES
First of all, then, you stand apart. *They stand apart.* Aye, so; that's what I mean; that you mayn't be making signs between you, I'll be a party-wall. *To his MAID-SERVANT.* Speak you.

A MAID-SERVANT of Callicles.
What am I to speak about?

CALLICLES
What was done with the child that my daughter was delivered of? My grandchild, I mean? Tell me the circumstances of the case.

A MAID-SERVANT of Callicles.
I gave it to her. *Pointing to SYRA.*

CALLICLES

to the MAID-SERVANT . Now hold your tongue. *To SYRA*. Did you receive the child from her?

SYRA
I did receive it.

CALLICLES
to SYRA . Hold your tongue; I want no more; you've confessed enough.

SYRA
I'm not going to deny it.

CALLICLES
By this you've now caused some relief for your shoulder-blades. So far, the account of each of them tallies.

DINARCHUS
apart . Ah wretched me! my doings are now being disclosed, which I hoped would be concealed.

CALLICLES
to the MAID-SERVANT . Speak, you. Who bade you give the child to her?

A MAID-SERVANT of Callicles.
My elder mistress.

CALLICLES
to SYRA. . What say you? Why did you receive it?

SYRA
My young mistress entreated me that the child might be brought, and that all this might remain secret.

CALLICLES
to SYRA . Speak, you. What did you do with this child?

SYRA
I took it to my mistress.

CALLICLES
What did your mistress do with this child?

SYRA
Gave it at once to my mistress.

CALLICLES
Plague on it, to what mistress?

A MAID-SERVANT of Callicles.
There are two of them.

CALLICLES
to the MAID . Take you care, unless I ask you anything, only to answer that which I ask of you.

SYRA
The mother, I say, made a present of it to the daughter.

CALLICLES
You are saying more than you did just now.

SYRA
You are asking more.

CALLICLES
Answer me quickly; what did she do, to whom it was given? Tell me.

SYRA
She passed it off as ——

CALLICLES
Whose?

SYRA
As her own son.

CALLICLES
As her own son? Ye Gods, by my trust in you I do appeal to you, how much more easily does another than she to whom it belongs, bring forth another's child! She, by the labours of another, has brought forth this child without pain. A child blest indeed! two mothers it has got, and grandams two. I'm now afraid how many fathers there may have been. Do see, please, the shocking deeds of women!

A MAID-SERVANT of Callicles.
I' troth, this fraud relates rather to the men than to the women. 'Twas a man, and not a woman, that caused her pregnancy.

CALLICLES
I know that too. You were a trusty guardian for it.

A MAID-SERVANT of Callicles.
He can do the most, who is strong the most. He was a man; he was the strongest; he prevailed; what he wanted, he carried off.

CALLICLES
And, i' faith, he too brought a heavy mishap, in fact, upon yourself.

A MAID-SERVANT of Callicles.
The thing itself experienced, I myself fully know that, even if you had held your tongue.

CALLICLES
Never, this day, have I been able to made you declare who he was.

A MAID-SERVANT of Callicles.
aside, on catching sight of DINARCHUS . I've held my tongue; but now I shan't hold my tongue, since he's here; it's necessary I should tell.

DINARCHUS
apart . I'm petrified; in my wretchedness, I dare not move myself; the matter's all out! The trial's now going on here for my life! These

are my misdeeds, this is my folly. I'm in dread how soon I may be named.

CALLICLES
to the MAID-SERVANT . Speak out, who was it, debauched my maiden daughter?

A MAID-SERVANT of Callicles.
I see him near you.

CALLICLES
Hussy, who was it?

A MAID-SERVANT of Callicles.
A supporter of the wall.

DINARCHUS
apart . I'm neither alive nor dead, nor know I what I am now to do; neither know I how to go away hence, nor how to accost him; I'm numbed with fear.

CALLICLES
Will you tell me, or no?

A MAID-SERVANT of Callicles.
It is Dinarchus, to whom you first betrothed her.

CALLICLES
looking round . Where is this person whom you mention?

DINARCHUS
stepping forward . Here I am, Callicles. *Falling on the ground.* By your knees I do entreat you that you will bear with wisdom that which was done in folly; and that you will pardon me that, which, losing my senses, I did through the bad influence of wine.

CALLICLES
You please me not. You throw the blame on what is dumb, that

which cannot speak. But the wine, if it could speak, would defend itself. It's not wine that's in the habit of ruling men, but men wine; those, indeed, who are virtuous men; but he who is bad, although he drinks water, or if indeed he abstains from intoxicating liquors, still, by nature he's bad.

DINARCHUS
Well, I'm sensible that many reproaches must be heard by me, which I would prefer not. I confess that I've offended you, and am privy to the crime.

A MAID-SERVANT of Callicles.
Callicles, prithee beware that you do injury to no person; the accused is pleading his cause at large, the witnesses you are keeping in bonds.

CALLICLES
to his SLAVES . Release those women. *They are unbound.* Come *to each of them in turn* , do you be off home, and you home as well. *To SYRA.* Tell your mistress this. she must give up the child, if any one asks for it. *(SYRA goes into the house of PHRONESIUM, and exit the MAID-SERVANT.)* You, Dinarchus, let's go before the judge.

DINARCHUS
Why do you wish me to go before the judge? You are the Prætor to me. But I entreat of you, Callicles, that you'll give me your daughter for a wife.

CALLICLES
I' faith, I find, indeed, that you've come to a decision on that point yourself; for you haven't waited till I gave her; you have helped yourself. Now keep her, as you've got her, but I'll fine you this grand haul; six great talents will I deduct from her dowry for this folly.

DINARCHUS
You act kindly towards me.

CALLICLES
'Twere best for you to demand your son back from thence. *Pointing*

to the house of PHRONESIUM. But your wife, as soon as possible, take away from my house. I shall at once, therefore, send a messenger to that kinsman of mine by marriage, and tell him to look out for another match for his son. *(Exit.)*

DINARCHUS
to himself . But I'll demand back the child of her, lest by-and-by she should deny it. That's of no use; for she herself, of her own accord, has discovered the whole matter to me, how it happened. But see, right opportunely, i' faith, is she coming out of doors from her house. Assuredly, a far-darting sting has that woman, who even from that distance is wounding my heart. *Stands aside.*

Enter PHRONESIUM and ASTAPHIUM, from the house of the former.

PHRONESIUM
to herself . A woman is a spoony and a trolloping slut, if she hasn't a view to her own interests, even in her cups. If her other limbs are soaked in wine, at least let her head be sober. But it's a vexation to me that my hair-dresser has been thus badly treated. She has been telling me that this child has been discovered to be the son of dinarchus. When I heard that * * * * *She moves, as if going.*

DINARCHUS
apart . She's going, in whose hands are all my fortune and my children.

PHRONESIUM
seeing DINARCHUS . I see him who has constituted me the guardian of his property.

DINARCHUS
coming forward . Madam, here am I.

PHRONESIUM
It certainly is he. What's the matter, my love?

DINARCHUS
No love; cease your trifling. I've nothing now to do with that subject.

PHRONESIUM
By my faith, I know what you want, and what you desire, and what you ask for. You want to see me; you desire to caress me; you ask for the child.

DINARCHUS
aside . Immortal Gods! how plain she speaks. How, in a few words, has she hit upon the very point!

PHRONESIUM
As for me, I know that you are betrothed, and that you have a son by your betrothed, and that a wife is now going to be married by you; that now your thoughts are elsewhere, that myself you are going to consider as forsaken. But still consider, the little mouse, how sagacious an animal it is, which never entrusts its life to one hole only; inasmuch as, if one hole is blocked up, it seeks another as a place of refuge.

DINARCHUS
When there's leisure, then I'll talk to you on those matters more at large; at present, give me up the child.

PHRONESIUM
No; do, there's a dear, let it be at my house the few next days.

DINARCHUS
Certainly not.

PHRONESIUM
Do, there's a dear.

DINARCHUS
What occasion is there?

PHRONESIUM

It's for my interest. This for the next three days at least, until the Captain is circumvented somehow; for that same purpose. If I get anything, it shall be for your own advantage as well. If you take the child away, all hope in the Captain will evaporate from my heart.

DINARCHUS
I would have that done; but, when it's taken home, to do it again, if I were to wish it, I have not the opportunity. Now make use of the child, and take care of it, because you have the means by which to take care of it.

PHRONESIUM
Upon my faith, I do love you much for this matter. When you shall be afraid of a scolding at home, do you take shelter here in my house. At least, prove a friend, to help me to a profitable speculation.

DINARCHUS
moving . Kindly farewell, Phronesium.

PHRONESIUM
Won't you any longer call me "apple of your eve?"

DINARCHUS
That name too, meanwhile, shall be repeated full oft.

PHRONESIUM
Do you wish for anything else?

DINARCHUS
Fare thee well; when I have leisure, I'll come to your house. *(Exit.)*

PHRONESIUM
Well, he's gone away from here, and has taken his departure; we may say here whatever we please. 'Tis a true proverb that's quoted, "Where the friends are, there are the riches." Through him, there's still some hope that the Captain may be duped to-day; whom, by the powers, I love better than my own self, — so long as I get out of him what I want: since, when we have got much, not much of it is seen

that has been given. Such are the brilliant prospects of Courtesans!

ASTAPHIUM
Hush! hush! be quiet.

PHRONESIUM
Prithee, what is it?

ASTAPHIUM
The father of the child is coming.

PHRONESIUM
Well, let him come here. Let him, if it only is he, let him come himself straight up to me here just as he chooses. If he does come, for very sure, i' faith, I'll do him to-day with some cunning tricks.
They go into the house.

ACT V.

PHRONESIUM and ASTAPHIUM appear before the door of the house. Enter STRATOPHANES.

STRATOPHANES
to himself . That I should love for this! I'm taking an atonement for my offences to my mistress! That that may be taken by her in kindly part which I've squandered before, I'll add this as well. But what's this? I see the mistress and her maid before the house. I must accost her. *Addressing them.* What are you doing here?

PHRONESIUM
Don't speak to me.

STRATOPHANES
You are too angry. *Pats her on the shoulder.*

PHRONESIUM
Leave me alone. Can't you possibly cease to be an annoyance to me?

STRATOPHANES
What is the matter, my dear little Astaphium?

ASTAPHIUM
I' faith, she's angry with you with good reason.

PHRONESIUM
What, I? I'm not even half spiteful enough to. wards that fellow.

STRATOPHANES
My love, if I have at all offended before, I present you with this mina of gold. If you smile upon me, deign me a look.

PHRONESIUM
My hand forbids me to believe anything, before it holds in its possession. We require food for the child; we require it for the dame

as well, that bathes the child; we require it for the nurse, as well, that she may have a leather bottle full of old wine in ample style, that night and day she may tipple; we stand in need of fire; we want coals, too; we want swathes, napkins, the cradle, the cradle-bed; oil we want; the child requires flour, for pap; all day we are wanting something; never, in the same one day, can our task be performed, but what there's always need of something; for the children of officers cannot be reared upon medlars.

STRATOPHANES
Look upon me then. Take this *presenting the money* , with which to satisfy these necessities.

PHRONESIUM
taking it . Give it me, although it's very little.

STRATOPHANES
Whatever you shall order, shall be given at your demand. Give me a kiss now. *Tries to kiss her.*

PHRONESIUM
Leave me alone, I say! You are a nuisance!

STRATOPHANES
aside . It's no use, I'm not loved by her; the day wears apace. More than ten pounds of silver have I lost in this short time by reason of my passion.

PHRONESIUM
giving the money to ASTAPHIUM . Take this, and carry it away indoors. *ASTAPHIUM carries it in. Enter STRABAX, from the house.*

STRABAX
to himself . Where in the world is my mistress? I get on with no business, either in the country or here, at this rate; I'm spoiling with mouldiness, I'm grown so dreadfully numbed with lying waiting here upon the couch. But look, I perceive her. Hallo! sweetheart, what are you about?

STRATOPHANES
What fellow is that?

PHRONESIUM
One that, upon my honor, I love far more than yourself.

STRATOPHANES
Than myself? In what way?

PHRONESIUM
Why, this way, that you are not to be troublesome to me. *Moves as if going.*

STRATOPHANES
Are you going now, after you've got the gold?

PHRONESIUM
What you've given me, I've put away in-doors.

STRABAX
Come here, sweetheart; I've got something to say to you.

PHRONESIUM
Why, I was just coming to you.

STRABAX
To me, my charmer?

PHRONESIUM
In serious truth, i' faith.

STRABAX
Although I seem a simpleton to you, I like myself to have a bit of recreation. For pretty though you are, you are so to your own loss, unless I amuse myself a bit with you.

PHRONESIUM
Should you like me to embrace you and give you a kiss?

STRABAX
Do whatever you like, I'll deem it agreable. *She kisses him.*

STRATOPHANES
What, shall I suffer her to be embracing other men before my eyes? I' faith, 'twere better that I were dead. Woman, take your hands off of him, unless, perhaps, by this sword of mine, won from the enemy, you wish yourself and him to die. *Flourishing his sword.*

PHRONESIUM
There's no use in "badinage," Captain. If you want yourself to be loved, with gold, Stratophanes, not with iron, may you prevent him from loving me.

STRATOPHANES
How, the plague, are you pretty or witty, to be fond of a fellow of that description?

PHRONESIUM
aside, to STRATOPHANES . Don't it come to your recollection what an actor once said upon the stage? " All people have an eye to their profit, and are not over delicate."

STRATOPHANES
That you could possibly caress this fellow, so dirty and foul!

PHRONESIUM
Although he is dirty, although he is foul, still, he's pretty to me.

STRATOPHANES
Didn't I give you some gold?

PHRONESIUM
To me? You gave money for the child's food.

STRABAX
Now, if you hope to have her, another mina of gold is requisite.

STRATOPHANES
A sore mishap upon these people, and a weighty one!

STRABAX
By all means, keep that by way of provision for your own journey.

STRATOPHANES
What does she owe you?

STRABAX
Three things.

STRATOPHANES
What, pray?

STRABAX
Perfumes, her favours, and kisses.

PHRONESIUM
apart . He answers him like for like. *To STRATOPHANES.* But now, at all events, if you do love me, do you give me some little trifle from your most abundant treasures.

STRATOPHANES
Do say, there's a dear, what it is that I'm to give you; only say. If I have it left, you shall have it.

PHRONESIUM
Mere kickshaws you're talking about. Be off, be off. *STRABAX kisses her.*

STRATOPHANES
I've considered this over with myself. My good sir, take you care, will you, that she don't inflict a wound upon you, whose teeth are made of iron. She's allowing access to her to all in common. You take your hand off of her.

STRABAX

striking him . Then, by my troth, do you take that, with a hearty punch, warlike man!

STRATOPHANES
I've given her gold.

STRABAX
And I, silver.

STRATOPHANES
And I a mantle and a purple garment.

STRABAX
And I, sheep and wool; and many other things that she shall ask for I'll give. 'Twere better for you to contest it with me with minæ than with menaces.

PHRONESIUM
Upon my faith you are a funny mortal, my Strabax. Prithee, do proceed —— *Aside.* A fool and a madman are contending for their ruin; I'm all right.

STRATOPHANES
Come, younker, do you offer something first.

STRABAX
Why no; do you squander first, and come to ruin.

STRATOPHANES
to PHRONESIUM . Well, here's a talent of silver for you. It's in Philippean coins. Take it for yourself.

PHRONESIUM
taking the money . So much the better. Be one of our family, but live at your own expense.

STRATOPHANES
to STRABAX . Where is that which you are going to give? Open your

purse-strings.

PHRONESIUM
That's a challenge.

STRATOPHANES
to STRABAX . What are you afraid of?

STRABAX
You are from abroad. I live here *points to his FATHER'S house* . I am afraid.

STRATOPHANES
I am not. Walk off, then.

STRABAX
I'm bringing her some sheep fastened in a purse to my neck.

STRATOPHANES
Because I gave that, how I did flounder the fellow.

STRABAX
Why no, indeed, it's I, who am going to give.

PHRONESIUM
to STRATOPHANES . Come in-doors now, prithee, and *to STRABAX* do you then stay with me here.

STRATOPHANES
You will give me your company then?

STRABAX
to PHRONESIUM . What say you?

PHRONESIUM
What?

STRABAX
What do you say? What, with this fellow? Am I to be postponed?

STRATOPHANES
I have made my present.

PHRONESIUM
to STRATOPHANES . You have given; *pointing to STRABAX* he's going to give just now; the one I've got, the other I expect. But each of the two shall be indulged to his heart's content.

STRABAX
So be it. As I see the matter stands, that must be taken that's offered.

STRATOPHANES
Indeed, I shall assuredly not be letting you take possession of my couch.

PHRONESIUM
aside . I' faith, I've cleverly netted them, and quite to my satisfaction. *To the AUDIENCE.* And as I see my affairs successfully managed, yours likewise would I successfully manage. I'll caress you in reality. If you are disposed to be doing anything, take care, will you, and let me know at once. For the sake of Venus, applaud; this Play is in her honor. Spectators, kindly farewell; grant applause, and then rise up.

The Latin Texts

The Theatre of Marcellus, the sole surviving theatre of Rome, was built in the closing years of the Roman Republic. At the theatre, locals and visitors alike were able to watch performances of drama and song.

Roman mosaic depicting actors and an aulos player; House of the Tragic Poet, Pompeii

LIST OF LATIN TEXTS

In this section of the eBook, readers can view the original Latin texts of Plautus' plays. You may wish to Bookmark this page for future reference.

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Source text: Maccius Plautus. Plauti Comoediae. F. Leo. Berlin. Weidmann. 1895. With thanks to the Pegasus Digital Library.

AMPHITRYON

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ACT I.

Mercvrivs
Vt vos in vostris voltis mercimoniis
emundis vendundisque me laetum lucris
adficere atque adiuvare in rebus omnibus
et ut res rationesque vostrorum omnium
bene me expedire voltis peregrique et domi
bonoque atque amplo auctare perpetuo lucro
quasque incepistis res quasque inceptabitis,
et uti bonis vos vostrosque omnis nuntiis
me adficere voltis, ea adferam, ea uti nuntiem
quae maxime in rem vostram communem sient
(nam vos quidem id iam scitis concessum et datum
mi esse ab dis aliis, nuntiis praesim et lucro):
haec ut me voltis adprobare adnitier,
lucrum ut perenne vobis semper suppetat
ita huic facietis fabulae silentium
itaque aequi et iusti hic eritis omnes arbitri.
Nunc cuius iussu venio et quam ob rem venerim
dicam simulque ipse eloquar nomen meum.
Iovis iússu venio, nomen Mercurio est mihi.
pater huc me misit ad vos oratum meus,
tam etsi, pro imperio vobis quod dictum foret,
scibat facturos, quippe qui intellexerat
vereri vos se et metuere, ita ut aequom est Iovem;
verum profecto hoc petere me precario
a vobis iussit, leniter, dictis bonis.
etenim ille, cuius huc iussu venio, Iuppiter
non minus quam vostrum quivis formidat malum:
humana matre natus, humano patre,
mirari non est aequom, sibi si praetimet;
atque ego quoque etiam, qui Iovis sum filius,
contagione mei patris metuo malum.
propterea pace advenio et pacem ad vos affero:†
iustam rem et facilem esse oratam a vobis volo,

nam iusta ab iustis iustus sum orator datus.
nam iniusta ab iustis impetrari non decet,
iusta autem ab iniustis petere insipientia est;
quippe illi iniqui ius ignorant neque tenent.
nunc iam huc animum omnes quae loquar advortite.
debetis velle quae velimus: meruimus
et ego et pater de vobis et re publica;
nam quid ego memorem (ut alios in tragoediis
vidi, Neptunum Virtutem Victoriam
Martem Bellonam, commemorare quae bona
vobis fecissent) quis bene factis meus pater,
deorum regnator ... architectus omnibus?
sed mos numquam illi fuit patri meo,†
ut exprobraret quod bonis faceret boni;
gratum arbitratur esse id a vobis sibi
meritoque vobis bona se facere quae facit.
Nunc quam rem oratum huc veni primum proloquar,
post argumentum huius eloquar tragoediae.
quid? contraxistis frontem, quia tragoediam
dixi futuram hanc? deus sum, commutavero.
eandem hánc, si voltis, faciam ex tragoedia
comoedia ut sit omnibus isdem vorsibus.
utrum sit an non voltis? sed ego stultior,
quasi nesciam vos velle, qui divos siem.
teneo quid animi vostri super hac re siet:
faciam ut commixta sit: sit tragicomoedia.
nam me perpetuo facere ut sit comoedia,
reges quo veniant et di, non par arbitror.
quid igitur? quoniam hic servos quoque partes habet,
faciam sit, proinde ut dixi, tragicomoedia.
nunc hoc me orare a vobis iussit Iuppiter,
ut conquaestores singula in subsellia
eant per totam caveam spectatoribus,
si cui favitores delegatos viderint,
ut is in cavea pignus capiantur togae;
sive quí ambissint palmam histrionibus
sive cuíquam artifici, si per scriptas litteras

sive qui ípse ambissit seu per internuntium,
sive adeo aediles perfidiose cui duint,
sirempse legem iussit esse Iuppiter,
quasi mágistratum sibi alterive ambiverit.
virtute dixit vos victores vivere,
non ambitione neque perfidia: qui minus
eadem histrioni sit lex quae summo viro?
virtute ambire oportet, non favitoribus.
sat habet favitorum semper qui recte facit,
si illis fides est quibus est ea res in manu.
hoc quoque etiam mihi pater in mandatis dedit,
ut conquaestores fierent histrionibus:
qui sibi mandasset delegati ut plauderent
quive quo placeret alter fecisset minus,
eius órnamenta et corium uti conciderent.
mirari nolim vos, quapropter Iuppiter
nunc histriones curet; ne miremini:
ipse hanc acturust Iuppiter comoediam.
quid? admirati estis? quasi vero novom
nunc proferatur, Ióvem facere histrioniam;
etiam, histriones anno cum in proscaenio hic
Iovem invocarunt, venit, auxilio is fuit.
praeterea certo prodit in tragoedia.
hanc fabulam, inquam, hic Iuppiter hodie ipse aget,
et ego una cum illo. nunc vos animum advortite,
dum huius argumentum éloquar comoediae.
Haec urbs est Thebae. in illisce habitat aedibus
Amphitruo, natus Argis ex Argo patre,
quicum Alcumena est nupta, Electri filia.
is nunc Amphitruo praefectust legionibus,
nam cum Telobois bellum est Thebano poplo.
is prius quam hinc abiit ipsemet in exercitum,
gravidam Alcumenam úxorem fecit suam.
nam ego vos novisse credo iam ut sit páter meus,
quam liber harum rerum multarum siet
quantusque amator sit quod complacitum est semel.
is amare occepit Alcumenam clam virum

usuramque eius corporis cepit sibi,
et gravidam fecit is eam compressu suo.
nunc de Alcumena ut rem teneatis rectius,
utrimque est gravida, et ex viro et ex summo Iove.
et meus pater nunc intus hic cum illa cubat,
et haec ob eam rem nox est facta longior,
dum cum illa quacum volt voluptatem capit;
sed ita adsimulavit se, quasi Amphitruo siet.
nunc ne hunc ornatum vos meum admiremini,
quod ego huc processi sic cum servili schema:
veterem atque antiquam rem novam ad vos proferam,
propterea ornatus in novom incessi modum.
nam méus pater intus núnc est eccum Iuppiter;
in Amphitruonis vertit sese imaginem
omnesque eum esse censent servi qui vident:
ita versipellem se facit quando lubet.
ego servi sumpsi Sosiae mi imaginem,
qui cum Amphitruone abiit hinc in exercitum,
ut praeservire amanti meo possem patri
atque ut ne, qui essem, familiares quaererent,
versari crebro hic cum viderent me domi;
nunc, cum esse credent servom et conservom suom,
haud quisquam quaeret qui siem aut quid venerim.
pater nunc intus suo animo morem gerit:
cubat complexus cuius cupiens maxime est;
quae illi ad legionem facta sunt memorat pater
meus Alcumenae: ílla illum censet virum
suom esse, quae cum moecho est. ibi nunc meus pater
memorat, legiones hostium ut fugaverit,
quo pacto sit donis donatus plurimis.
ea dona, quae illic Amphitruoni sunt data,
abstulimus: facile meus pater quod volt facit.
nunc hodie Amphitruo veniet huc ab exercitu
et servos, cuius ego hanc feró imaginem.
nunc internosse ut nos possitis facilius,
ego has habebo úsque in petaso pinnulas;
tum meo patri autem torulus inerit aureus

sub petaso: id signum Amphitruoni non erit.
ea signa nemo hórum familiarium
videre poterit: verum vos videbitis.
sed Amphitruonis illic est servos Sosia:
a portu illíc nunc cum lanterna ádvenit.
abigam iam ego illum advenientem ab aedibus.
adeste: erit operae pretium híc spectantibus
Iovem et Mercurium facere hístrioniam.

Sosia
Qui me álter est audácior homo aút qui confidéntior,
iuventútis mores qui sciam, qui hoc noctis solus ambulem?
quid faciam nunc, si tres viri me in carcerem compegerint?
inde crás quasi e promptaria cella depromar ad flagrum,
nec causam liceat dicere mihi, néque in ero quicquam auxili
nec quisquam sit quin me malo omnes esse dignum deputent.
íta quasi incudém me miserum hómines octo válidi caedant:
ita peregre adveniens hospitio publicitus accipiar.
haéc eri immodéstia
coegit, me qui hoc noctis a portu ingratiis excitavit.
nonne ídem hoc luci me míttere potuit?
opulénto homini hoc servitús dura est,
hoc mágis miser est divítis servos:
nóctesque diésque assiduó satis superque est
quód facto aut dícto adeost ópus, quietus ne sis.
ípse dominus díves, operis ét laboris expers,
quódcumque homini áccidit libére, posse retur:
aéquom esse putát, non reputát laboris quid sit.
nec aéquom anne iníquom imperét cogitábit.
ergo ín servitúte expetúnt multa iníqua:
habéndum et ferúndum hoc onúst cum labóre.

Merc.
Satiúst me queri íllo modó servitútem:
hodié qui fuerim líber,
eúm nunc potívit patér servitútis,
hic qui verna natus est queritur.

Sos.
Sum véro verna vérbero: num número mi in mentém fuit,
dis advenientem gratias pro meritis agere atque alloqui?
ne illi edepol si merito meo referre studeant gratiam,
aliquem hominem allegent qui mihi advenienti os occillet probe,
quoniam bene quae in me fecerunt ingrata ea habui atque inrita.

Merc.
Facit ille quod volgo haud solent, ut quid se sit dignum sciat.

Sos.
Quod numquam opinatus fui neque alius quisquam civium
sibi eventurum, id contigit, ut salvi poteremur domi.
victores victis hostibus legiones reveniunt domum,
duelló exstincto maximo atque internecatis hostibus.
quod multa Thebano poplo acerba obiecit funera,
id vi et virtute militum victum atque expugnatum oppidum est
imperio atque auspicio eri mei Amphitruonis maxime.
praeda atque agro adoriaque adfecit populares suos
regique Thebano Creoni regnum stabilivit suom.
me a portu praemisit domum, ut haec nuntiem uxori suae,
ut gesserit rem publicam ductu imperio auspicio suo.
ea nunc meditabor quo modo illi dicam, cum illo advenero.
si dixero mendacium, solens meo more fecero.
nam cum pugnabant maxume, ego tum fugiebam maxume;
verum quasi adfuerim tamen simulabo atque audita eloquar.
sed quo modo et verbis quibus me deceat fabularier,
prius ipse mecum etiam volo hic meditari. sic hoc proloquar.
Principio ut illo advenimus, ubi primum terram tetigimus,
continuo Amphitruo delegit viros primorum principes;
eos legat, Telobois iubet sententiam ut dicant suam:
si sine vi et sine bello velint rapta et raptores tradere,
si quae asportassent redderent, se exercitum extemplo domum
reducturum, abituros agro Argivos, pacem atque otium
dare illis; sin aliter sient animati neque dent quae petat,
sese igitur summa vi virisque eorum oppidum oppugnassere.
haec ubi Telobois ordine iterarunt quos praefecerat

Amphitruo, magnanimi viri freti virtute et viribus
superbe nimis ferociter legatos nostros increpant,
respondent bello se et suos tutari posse, proinde uti
propere irent, de suis finibus exercitus deducerent.
haec ubi legati pertulere, Amphitruo castris ilico
producit omnem exercitum. Teloboae contra ex oppido
legiones educunt suas nimis pulcris armis praeditas.
póstquam utrimque éxitum est máxima cópia,
dispertiti viri, dispertiti ordines,
nos nostras more nostro et modo instruximus
légiones, item hóstes contra légiones suas ínstruont.
deínde utrique ímperatóres in medium éxeunt,
éxtra turbam órdinum cólloquontúr simul.
convenit, victi utri sint eo proelio,
urbem agrum aras focos seque uti dederent.
postquam id actum est, tubae contra utrimque occanunt,
consonat terra, clamorem utrimque efferunt.
imperator utrimque, hinc et illinc, Iovi
vota suscipere, utrimque hortari exercitum.
tum pro se quisque id quod quisque potest et valet
edit, ferro ferit, tela frangunt, boat
caélum fremitú virum, ex spíritu atque anhélitu
nébula constát, cadunt vólnerum ví viri.
denique, ut voluimus, nostra superat manus:
hostes crebri cadunt, nostri contra ingruont
vicimus ví feroces.
sed †fugam in se tamen nemo convortitur
nec recedit loco quin statim rem gerat;
animam omittunt prius quam loco demigrent:
quisque ut steterat iacet optinetque ordinem.
hóc ubi Amphítruo erus cónspicatust,
ílico equités iubet déxtera indúcere.
equites parent citi: ab dextera maximo
cúm clamore involant ímpetu alacri,
foédant et próterunt hóstium cópias
iúre iniustas.

Merc.
Numquam étiam quicquam adhúc verborum est prólocutus pérperam:
namque ego fui illi in re praesenti et meus, cum pugnatum est, pater.

Sos.
Perduelles penetrant se in fugam; ibi nostris animus additust:
vortentibus Telobois telis complebantur corpora,
ipsusque Amphitruo regem Pterelam sua obtruncavit manu.
haec illic est pugnata pugna úsque a mani ad vesperum
(hoc adeo hoc commemini magis, quia illo die inpransus fui),
sed proelium id tandem diremit nox interventu suo.
postridie in castra ex urbe ad nos veniunt flentes principes:
velatis manibus orant ignoscamus peccatum suom,
deduntque se, divina humanaque omnia, urbem et liberos
in dicionem atque in arbitratum cuncti Thebano poplo.
post ob virtutem ero Amphitruoni patera donata aurea est,
qui Pterela potitare solitus est rex. haec sic dicam erae.
nunc pergam eri imperium exequi et me domum capessere.

Merc.
Áttat, illic húc iturust. íbo ego illi óbviam,
neque ego huc hominem hodie ad aedis has sinam umquam accedere;
quando imago est huius in me, certum est hominem eludere.
et enim vero quoniam formam cépi huius ín med et statum,
decet et facta moresque huius habere me similes item.
itaque me malum esse oportet, callidum, astutum admodum
atque hunc, telo suo sibi, malitia a foribus pellere.
sed quid illúc est? caelum aspectat. observabo quam rem agat.

Sos.
Certe edepol, si quicquamst aliud quod credam aut certo sciam,
credo ego hac noctu Nocturnum óbdormivisse ebrium.
nam neque se Septentriones quoquam in caelo commovent,
neque se Luna quoquam mutat atque uti exorta est semel,
nec Iugulae neque Vesperugo neque Vergiliae óccidunt.
ita statim stant signa, neque nox quoquam concedit die.

Merc.
Perge, Nox, ut occepisti, gere patri morem meo:
optumo optume optumam operam das, datam pulchre locas.

Sos.
Neque ego hac nocte longiorem me vidisse censeo,
nisi item unam, verberatus quam pependi perpetem;
eam quoque edepol etiam multo haec vicit longitudine.
credo edepol equidem dormire Solem, atque adpotum probe;
mira sunt nisi invitavit sese in cena plusculum.

Merc.
Ain vero, verbero? deos esse tui similis putas?
ego pol te istis tuis pro dictis et male factis, furcifer,
accipiam; modo sis veni huc: invenies infortunium.

Sos.
Vbi sunt isti scortatores, qui soli inviti cubant?
haec nox scita est exercendo scorto conducto male.

Merc.
Meus pater nunc pro huius verbis recte et sapienter facit,
qui complexus cum Alcumena cubat amans animo obsequens.

Sos.
Ibo ut erus quod imperavit Alcumenae nuntiem.
sed quis hic ést homo, quem ante aedis video hoc noctis? non placet.

Merc.
Nullust hoc metuculosus aeque.

Sos.
Mi in mentem venit,
illic homó hoc dé umero volt pallium detexere.

Merc.
Timet homo: deludam ego illum.

Sos.
Perii, dentes pruriunt;
certe advenientem hic me hospitio pugneo accepturus est.
credo misericors est: nunc propterea quod me meus erus
fecit ut vigilarem, hic pugnis faciet hodie ut dormiam.
oppido interii. obsecro hercle, quantus et quam validus est.

Merc.
Clare advorsum fabulabor, ut hic auscultet quae loquar;
igitur magis demum maiorem in sese concipiet metum.
agite, pugni, iam diu est quom ventri victum non datis:
iam pridem videtur factum, heri quod homines quattuor
in soporem collocastis nudos.

Sos.
Formido male,
né ego hic nomen meum commutem et Quintus fiam e Sosia;
quattuor nudos sopori se dedisse hic autumat:
metuo ne numerum augeam illum.

Merc.
em, nunciam ergo: sic volo.

Sos.
Cingitur: certe expedit se.

Merc.
Non feret quin vapulet.

Sos.
Quis homo?

Merc.
Quisquis homo huc profecto venerit, pugnos edet.

Sos.
Apage, non placet me hoc noctis esse: cenavi modo;
proin tu istam cenam largire, si sapis, esurientibus.

Merc.
Haud malum huic est pondus pugno.

Sos.
Perii, pugnos ponderat.

Merc.
Quid si ego illum tractim tangam, ut dormiat?

Sos.
Servaveris,
nam continuas has tris noctes pervigilavi.

Merc.
Pessumest,
facimus nequiter, ferire malam male discit manus;
alia forma ésse oportet quem tu pugno legeris.

Sos.
Illic homo me interpolabit meumque os finget denuo.

Merc.
Exossatum os esse oportet quem probe percusseris.

Sos.
Mirum ni hic me quasi murenam éxossare cogitat.
ultro istunc qui exossat homines. perii, si me aspexerit.

Merc.
Olet homo quidam malo suo.

Sos.
ei, numnam ego óbolui?

Merc.
Atque haud longe abesse oportet, verum longe hinc afuit.

Sos.

Illic homo superstitiosust.

Merc.
Gestiunt pugni mihi.

Sos.
Si in me exercituru's, quaeso in parietem ut primum domes.

Merc.
Vox mi ad aures advolavit.

Sos.
Né ego homo infelix fui,
qui non alas intervelli: volucrem vocem gestito.

Merc.
Illic homo a me sibi malam rem arcessit iumento suo.

Sos.
Non equidem ullum habeo iumentum.

M.
Onerandus est pugnis probe.

Sos.
Lassus sum hercle, navi ut vectus huc sum: etiam nunc nauseo;
vix incedo inanis, ne ire posse cum onere existimes.

Merc.
Certe enim hic nescio quis loquitur.

Sos.
Salvos sum, non me videt:
nescioquem loqui autumat; mihi certo nomen Sosiaest.

Merc.
Hinc enim míhi dextra vox auris, ut videtur, verberat.

Sos.

Metuo, vocis ne vicem hodie hic vapulem, quae hunc verberat.

Merc.
Optume eccum incedit ad me.

Sos.
Timeo, totus torpeo.
non edepol nunc ubi terrarum sim scio, si quis roget,
neque miser me commovere possum prae formidine.
ilicet, mandata eri perierunt una et Sosia.
verum certum est confidenter hominem contra conloqui,
qui possim videri huic fortis, a me ut abstineat manum.

Merc.
Quo ambulas tu, qui Volcanum in cornu conclusum geris?

Sos.
Quid id exquiris tu, qui pugnis os exossas hominibus?

Merc.
Servosne es an liber?

Sos.
Vtcumque animo conlibitum est meo.

Merc.
Ain vero?

Sos.
Aio enim vero.

M.
Verbero.

S.
Mentiris nunc.

Merc.

At iam faciam ut verum dicas dicere.

Sos.
Quid eo est opus?

Merc.
Possum scire, quo profectus, cuius sis aut quid veneris?

Sos.
Húc eo, eri iussu, eius sum servos. numquid nunc es certior?

M.
Ego tibi istam hodie, sceleste, comprimam linguam.

S.
Haud potes:
bene pudiceque adservatur.

Merc.
Pergin argutarier?
quid apud hasce aedis negoti ést tibi?

Sos.
Immo quid tibi est?

Merc.
Rex Creo vigiles nocturnos singulos semper locat.

Sos.
Bene facit: quia nos eramus peregre, tutatust domi;
at nunc abi sane, advenisse familiares dicito.

Merc.
Nescio quam tu familiaris sis: nisi actutum hinc abis,
familiaris accipiere faxo haud familiariter.

S.
Hic inquam habito ego atque horunc servos sum.

M.
At scin quo modo?
faciam ego hodie te superbum, nisi hinc abis.

Sos.
Quonam modo?

Merc.
Auferere, non abibis, sí ego fustem sumpsero.

Sos.
Quin me esse huius familiai familiarem praedico.

Merc.
Vide sis quam mox vapulare vis, nisi actutum hinc abis.

Sos.
Tun domo prohibere peregre me advenientem postulas?

M.
Haecine tua domust?

S.
Ita inquam.

M.
Quis erus est igitur tibi?

Sos.
Amphitruo, qui nunc praefectust Thebanis legionibus,
quicum nupta est Alcumena.

Merc.
Quid ais? quid nomen tibi est?

Sos.
Sosiam vocant Thebani, Davo prognatum patre.

Merc.

Ne tu istic hodie malo tuo compositis mendaciis
advenisti, audaciai columen, consutis dolis.

Sos.
Immo equidem tunicis consutis huc advenio, non dolis.

Merc.
At mentiris etiam: certo pedibus, non tunicis venis.

Sos.
Ita profecto.

Merc.
Nunc profecto vapula ob mendacium.

Sos.
Non edepol volo profecto.

Merc.
At pol profecto ingratiis.
hoc quidem profecto certum est, non est arbitrarium.

Sos.
Tuam fidem obsecro.

Merc.
Tun te audes Sosiam esse dicere,
quí ego sum?

S.
Perii.

M.
Parum etiam, praeut futurum est, praedicas.
quoius nunc es?

Sos.
Tuos, nam pugnis usu fecisti tuom.

pro fidem, Thebani cives.

Merc.
Etiam clamas, carnifex?
loquere, quid venisti?

Sos.
Vt esset quem tu pugnis caederes.

M.
Cuius es?

S.
Amphitruonis, inquam, Sosia.

M.
Ergo istoc magis,
quia vaniloquo's, vapulabis: ego sum, non tu, Sosia.

Sos.
Ita di faciant, ut tu potius sis atque ego te ut verberem.

M.
Etiam muttis?

S.
Iam tacebo.

M.
Quis tibi erust?

S.
Quem tu voles.

Merc.
Quid igitur? qui nunc vocare?

Sos.
Nemo nisi quem iusseris.

Merc.
Amphitruonis te esse aiebas Sosiam.

Sos.
Peccaveram,
nam Amphitruonis †socium ne me esse volui dicere.

Merc.
Scibam equidem nullum esse nobis nisi me servom Sosiam.
fugit te ratió.

Sos.
Vtinam istuc pugni fecissent tui.

Merc.
Ego sum Sosia ille quem tu dudum esse aiebas mihi.

Sos.
Obsecro ut per pacem liceat te alloqui, ut ne vapulem.

Merc.
Immo indutiae parumper fiant, si quid vis loqui.

Sos.
Non loquar nisi pace facta, quando pugnis plus vales.

Merc.
Dic si quid vis, non nocebo.

Sos.
Tuae fide credo?

Merc.
Meae.

Sos.
Quid si falles?

Merc.

Tum Mercurius Sosiae iratus siet.

Sos.
Animum advorte. nunc licet mihi libere quidvis loqui.
Amphitruonis ego sum servos Sosia.

Merc.
Etiam denuo?

Sos.
Pacem feci, foedus feci. vera dico.

Merc.
Vapula.

Sos.
Vt libet quid tibi libet fac, quoniam pugnis plus vales;
verum, utut es facturus, hoc quidem hercle haud reticebo tamen.

Merc.
Tu me vivos hodie numquam facies quin sim Sosia.

Sos.
Certe edepol tu me alienabis numquam quin noster siem;
nec nobis praeter med alius quisquam est servos Sosia.
qui cum Amphitruone hinc una ieram in exercitum.

M.
Hic homo sanus non est.

S.
Quod mihi praedicas vitium, id tibi est.
quid, malum, non súm ego servos Amphitruonis Sosia?
nonne hac noctu nostra navis huc ex portu Persico
venit, quae me advexit? nonne me huc erus misit meus?
nonne ego nunc sto ante aedes nostras? non mi est lanterna in manu?
non loquor, nón vigilo? nonne hic homo módo me pugnis
contudit?

fecit hercle, nam etiam misero nunc mihi malae dolent.
quid igitur ego dubito, aut cur non intro eo in nostram domum?

M.
Quid, domum vostram?

S.
Ita enim vero.

M.
Quin quae dixisti modo
omnia ementitu's: equidem Sosia Amphitruonis sum.
nam noctu hac soluta est navis nostra e portu Persico,
et ubi Pterela rex regnavit oppidum expugnavimus,
et legiones Teloboarum vi pugnando cepimus,
et ipsus Amphitruo optruncavit regem Pterelam in proelio.

Sos.
Egomet mihi non credo, cum illaec autumare illum audio;
hic quidem cérte quae illic sunt res gestae memorat memoriter.
sed quid ais? quid Amphitruoni doni a Telobois datum est?

Merc.
Pterela rex qui potitare solitus est patera aurea.

Sos.
Elocutus est. ubi patera nunc est?

Merc.
Est in cistula;
Amphitruonis obsignata signo est.

Sos.
Signi dic quid est?

Merc.
Cum quadrigis Sol exoriens. quid me captas, carnufex?

Sos.
Argumentis vicit, aliud nomen quaerundum est mihi.
nescio unde haec hic spectavit. iám ego hunc decipiam probe;
nam quod egomet solus feci, nec quisquam alius affuit,
in tabernaclo, id quidem hodie numquam poterit dicere.
si tu Sosia es, legiones cum pugnabant maxume,
quid in tabernaclo fecisti? victus sum, si dixeris.

Merc.
Cadus erat vini, inde implevi hírneam.

Sos.
Ingressust viam.

Merc.
Eam ego, ut matre fuerat natum, vini éduxi meri.

Sos.
Factum est illud, ut ego illíc vini hirneam ebiberim meri.
mira sunt nisi latuit intus illic in illac hirnea.

Merc.
Quid nunc? vincon argumentis, te non esse Sosiam?

Sos.
Tu negas med esse?

Merc.
Quid ego ni negem, qui egomet siem?

Sos.
Per Iovem iuro med esse neque me falsum dicere.

Merc.
At ego per Mercurium iuro, tibi Iovem non credere;
nam iniurato scio plus credet mihi quam iurato tibi.

Sos.

Quis ego sum saltem, si non sum Sosia? te interrogo.

Merc.
Vbi ego Sosia nolim esse, tu esto sane Sosia;
nunc, quando ego sum, vapulabis, ni hinc abis, ignobilis.

Sos.
Certe edepol, quom illum contemplo et formam cognosco meam,
quem ad modum ego sum (saepe in speculum inspexi), nimis similest mei;
itidem habet petasum ac vestitum: tam consimilest atque ego;
sura, pes, statura, tonsus, oculi, nasum vel labra,
malae, mentum, barba, collus: totus. quid verbis opust?
si tergum cicatricosum, nihil hoc similist similius.
sed quom cogito, equidem certo idem sum qui semper fui.
novi erum, novi aedis nostras; sane sapio et sentio.
non ego illi obtempero quod loquitur. pultabo foris.

Merc.
Quó agis te?

S.
Domum.

M.
Quadrigas si nunc inscendas Iovis
atque hinc fugias, ita vix poteris effugere infortunium.

Sos.
Nonne erae meae nuntiare quod erus meus iussit licet?

Merc.
Tuae si quid vis nuntiare: hanc nostram adire non sinam.
nam si me inritassis, hodie lumbifragium hinc auferes.

Sos.
Abeo potius. di immortales, obsecro vostram fidem,
ubi ego perii? ubi immutatus sum? ubi ego formam perdidi?

an egomet me illic reliqui, si forte oblitus fui?
nám hic quidem omnem imaginem meam, quae antehac fuerat, possidet.
vivo fit quod numquam quisquam mortuo faciet mihi.
ibo ad portum atque haec uti sunt facta ero dicam meo;
nisi etiam is quoque me ignorabit: quod ille faxit Iuppiter,
ut ego hodie ráso capite calvos capiam pilleum. —

Merc.
Bene próspere hoc hodie operis processit mihi:
amovi a foribus maximam molestiam,
patri ut liceret tuto illam amplexarier.
iam ille illuc ad erum cum Amphitruonem advenerit,
narrabit servom hinc sese a foribus Sosiam
amovisse; ille adeo illum mentiri sibi
credet, neque credet huc profectum, ut iusserat.
erroris ambo ego illos et dementiae
complebo atque omnem Amphitruonis familiam,
adeo usque, satietatem dum capiet pater
illius quám amat. igitur demum omnes scient
quae facta. denique Alcumenam Iuppiter
redigét antiquam coniugi in concordiam.
nam Amphitruo actutum uxori turbas conciet
atque insimulabit eam probri; tum meus pater
eam séditionem illi in tranquillum conferet.
nunc de Alcumena dudum quod dixi minus,
hodie illa pariet filios geminos duos
alter decumo post mense nascetur puer
quam seminatust, alter mense septumo;
eorum Ámphitruonis alter est, alter Iovis:
verum minori puero maior est pater,
minor maiori. iamne hoc scitis quid siet?
sed Alcumenae huius honoris gratia
pater curavit uno ut fetu fieret,
uno ut labore absolvat aerumnas duas.
et ne in suspicione ponatur stupri
et clandestina ut celetur consuetio.

quamquam, ut iam dudum dixi, resciscet tamen
Amphitruo rem omnem. quid igitur? nemo id probro
profecto ducet Alcumenae; nam deum
non par videtur facere, delictum suom
suamque ut culpam expetere in mortalem ut sinat.
orationem comprimam: crepuit foris.
Amphitruo subditivos eccum exit foras
cum Alcumena uxore usuraria.

Ivppiter
Béne vale, Alcumena, cura rem communem, quod facis;
atque inperce quaeso: menses iam tibi esse actos vides.
mihi necesse est ire hinc; verum quod erit natum tollito.

Alcvmena
Quid istuc est, mi vir, negoti, quod tu tam subito domo
abeas?

Ivpp.
Edepol haud quod tui me neque domi distaedeat;
sed ubi summus imperator non adest ad exercitum,
citius quod non facto est usus fit quam quod facto est opus.

Merc.
Nimis hic scitust sycophanta, qui quidem meus sit pater.
observatote eum, quam blande mulieri palpabitur.

Alc.

Ecastor te experior quanti facias uxorem tuam.

Ivpp.
Satin habes, si feminarum nulla est quam aeque diligam?

Merc.
Edepol ne illa si istis rebus te sciat operam dare,
ego faxim ted Amphitruonem esse malis, quam Iovem.

Alc.

Experiri istuc mavellem me quam mi memorarier.
prius abis quam lectus ubi cubuisti concaluit locus.
heri venisti media nocte, nunc abis. hocin placet?

Merc.
Accedam atque hanc appellabo et subparasitabor patri.
numquam edepol quemquam mortalem credo ego uxorem suam
sic ecflictim amare, proinde ut hic te ecflictim deperit.

Ivpp.
Carnufex, non ego te novi? ábin e conspectu meo?
quid tibi hanc curatio est rem, verbero, aut muttitio?
quoii ego iam hoc scipione —

Alc.

Ah noli.

Ivpp.
Muttito modo.

Merc.
Nequiter paene expedivit prima parasitatio.

Ivpp.
Verum quod tu dicis, mea uxor, non te mi irasci decet.
clanculum abii a legione: operam hanc subrupui tibi,
ex me primo ut prima scires, rem ut gessissem publicam.
ea tibi omnia enarravi. nisi te amarem plurimum,
non facerem.

Merc.
Facitne ut dixi? timidam palpo percutit.

Ivpp.
Nunc, ne legio persentiscat, clam illuc redeundum est mihi,

ne me uxorem praevertisse dicant prae re publica.

Alc.

Lacrimantem ex abitu concinnas tu tuam uxorem.

Ivpp.
Tace,
ne corrumpe oculos, redibo actutum.

Alc.

Id actutum diu est.

Ivpp.
Non ego te hic lubens relinquo neque abeo abs te.

Alc.

Sentio,
nam qua nocte ad me venisti, eadem abis.

Ivpp.
Cur me tenes?
tempus est: exire ex urbe prius quam lucescat volo.
nunc tibi hanc pateram, quae dono mi illi ob virtutem data est,
Pterela rex qui potitavit, quem ego mea occidi manu,
Alcumena, tibi condono.

Alc.

Facis ut alias res soles.
ecastor condignum donum, qualest qui donum dedit.

Merc.
Immo sic: condignum donum, qualest cui dono datumst.

Ivpp.
Pergin autem? nonne ego possum, furcifer, te perdere?

Alc.

Noli amabo, Amphitruo, irasci Sosiae causa mea.

Ivpp.
Faciam ita ut vis.

Merc.
Ex amore hic admodum quam saevos est.

I.
Numquid vis?

A.
Vt quom absim mé ames, me tuam te absente tamen.

Merc.
Eamus, Amphitruo. lucescit hoc iam.

Ivpp.
Abi prae, Sosia,
iam ego sequar. numquid vis?

A.
Etiam: ut actutum advenias.

I.
Licet,
prius tuá opinione híc adero: bonum ánimum habe. —
nunc te, nox, quae me mansisti, mitto uti cedas die,
ut mortalis inlucescat luce clara et candida.
atque quanto, nox, fuisti longior hac proxuma,
tanto brevior dies ut fiat faciam, ut aeque disparet.
sed dies e nocte accedat. ibo et Mercurium sequar. —

ACT II.

Amphitrvo
Age í tu secúndum.

Sosia
Sequór, subsequór te.

Amph.
Scelestissimum te arbitror.

Sos.
Nam quam ob rem?

Amph.
Quia id quod neque est neque fuit neque futurum est
mihi praedicas.

Sos.
Eccere, iam tuatim
facis tu, ut tuis nulla apud te fides sit.

Amph.
Quid est? quo modo? iam quidem hercle ego tibi istam
scelestam, scelus, linguam abscidam.

Sos.
Tuos sum,
proinde ut commodumst et lubet quidque facias;
tamen quin loquar haec uti facta sunt hic,
numquam ullo modo me potes deterrere.

Amph.
Scelestissime, audes mihi praedicare id,
domi te esse nunc, qui hic ades?

Sos.

Vera dico.

Amph.
Malum quod tibi di dabunt, atque ego hodie
dabo.

Sos.
Istuc tibist in manu, nam tuos sum.

Amph.
Tun me, verbero, audes erum ludificari?
tune id dicere audes, quod nemo umquam homo antehac
vidit nec potest fieri, tempore uno
homo idem duobus locis ut simul sit?

Sos.
Profecto ut loquor res ita est.

Amph.
Iuppiter te
perdat.

Sos.
Quid mali súm, ere, tua ex re promeritus?

Amph.
Rogasne, improbe, etiam, qui ludos facis me?

Sos.
Meritó maledicás mihi, si id ita factum est.†
verum haud mentior, resque uti facta dico.

Amph.
Homo hic ébrius est, ut opínor.

Sos.
Útinam ita essem.

Amph.
Optás quae facta.

Sos.
Égone?

Amph.
Tu istic. úbi bibisti?

Sos.
Nusquam equidem bibi.

Amph.
Quid hoc sit
hominis?

Sos.
equidem decies dixi:
domi ego sum, inquam, écquid audis?
et apud te adsum Sosia idem.
satin hoc plane, satin diserte,
ere, nunc videor
tibi locutus esse?

Amph.
Vah,
ápage te a me.

Sos.
Quíd est negoti?

Amph.
Péstis te tenet.

Sos.
Nám quor istuc
dicis? equidem valeo et salvos
sum recte, Amphitruo.

Amph.
At te ego faciam
hodie proinde ac meritus es,
ut minus valeas et miser sis,
salvos domum si rediero: iam
sequere sis, erum qui ludificas
dictis delirantibus,
qui quoniam erus quod imperavit neglexisti persequi,
nunc venis etiam ultro inrisum dominum: quae neque fieri
possunt neque fando umquam accepit quisquam profers, carnifex;
quoius ego hodie in tergum faxo ista expetant mendacia.

Sos.
Amphitruo, miserrima istaec miseria est servo bono,
apud erum qui vera loquitur, si id vi verum vincitur.

Amph.
Quo id, malum, pacto potest nam (mecum argumentis puta)
fieri, nunc uti tu et hic sis et domi? id dici volo.

Sos.
Sum profecto et hic et illíc. hoc cuivis mirari licet,
neque tibi istuc mirum ... mágis videtur quam mihi.

Amph.
Quo modo?

S.
Nihilo, inquam, mirum magis tibi istuc quam mihi;
neque, ita me di ament, credebam primo mihimet Sosiae,
donec Sosia illic egomet fecit sibi uti crederem.
ordine omne, uti quicque actum est, dúm apud hostis sedimus,
edissertavit. tum formam una abstulit cum nomine.
neque lac lactis magis est simile quam ille ego similest mei.
nam ut dudum ante lucem a portu me praemisisti domum —

A.
Quid igitur?

S.
Prius multo ante aedis stabam quam illo adveneram.

Amph.
Quas, malum, nugás? satin tu sanus es?

Sos.
Sic sum ut vides.

Amph.
Huic homini nescio quid est mali mala obiectum manu,
postquam a me abiit.

Sos.
Fateor, nam sum obtusus pugnis pessume.

Amph.
Quis te verberavit?

Sos.
Egomet memet, qui nunc sum domi.

Amph.
Cave quicquam, nisi quod rogabo te, mihi responderis.
omnium primum iste qui sit Sosia, hoc dici volo.

Sos.
Tuos est servos.

Amph.
Mihi quidem uno te plus etiam est quam volo,
neque postquam sum natus habui nisi te servom Sosiam.

Sos.
At ego nunc, Amphitruo, dico: Sosiam servom tuom
praeter me alterum, inquam, adveniens faciam ut offendas domi,
Davo prognatum patre eodem quo égo sum, forma, aetate item
qua égo sum. quid opust verbis? geminus Sosia hic factust tibi.

Amph.
Nimia memoras mira. sed vidistin uxorem meam?

S.
Quin intro ire in aedis numquam licitum est.

A.
Quis te prohibuit?

Sos.
Sosia ille, quem iam dudum dico, is qui me contudit.

Amph.
Quis istic Sosia est?

Sos.
Ego, inquam. quotiens dicendum est tibi?

Amph.
Sed quid ais? num obdormivisti dudum?

Sos.
Nusquam gentium.

Amph.
Ibi forte istum si vidisses quendam in somnis Sosiam —

Sos.
Non soleo ego somniculose éri imperia persequi.
vigilans vidi, vigilans nunc te video, vigilans fabulor,
vigilantem ille me iam dudum vigilans pugnis contudit.

Amph.
Quis homo?

Sos.
Sosia, inquam, ego ille. quaeso, nonne intellegis?

Amph.

Qui, malum, intellegere quisquam potis est? ita nugas blatis.

Sos.
Verum actutum nosces, quom illum nosces servom Sosiam.

Amph.
Sequere hac igitur me, nam mi istuc primum exquisito est opus.
sed vide ex navi efferantur quae imperavi iam omnia.

Sos.
Et memor sum et diligens, ut quae imperes compareant;
non ego cum vino simitu ébibi imperium tuom.

Amph.
Vtinam di faxint, infecta dicta re eveniant tua.

Alcvmena
Satín parva rés est volúptatum in víta atque in aétate agúnda
praequám quod moléstum est? ita cuíque comparátum est in aétate hominum;
ita dívis est plácitum, volúptatem ut maéror comés consequátur:
quin íncommodí plus malíque ilico ádsit, boní si optigít quid.
nam ego íd nunc expérior domo átque ipsa dé me sció, cui volúptas
parúmper datást, dum virí mei míhi potéstas vidéndi fuit
noctem únam modo; átque is repénte abiit á me hinc ánte lucem.
sola híc mihi nunc vídeor, quia ílle hinc abést quem ego amó praeter omnes.
plus aégri ex ábitu virí, quam ex advéntu volúptatis cépi.
sed hóc me beát
saltém, quom perduéllis vicít et domúm laudis cómpos revénit:
id sólacio est.
absít, dum modó laude párta
domúm recipiát se; feram ét perferam úsque
abitum éius ánimo forti átque offirmáto, id módo si mercédis
datúr mi, ut meús victor vír belli clúeat.
satis mi esse ducam.
virtús praemium ést optimúm;

virtús omnibús rebus ánteit profécto:
libértas salús vita rés et paréntes, patria ét prognáti
tutántur, servántur:
virtús omnia ín sese habét, omnia ádsunt
bona quém penest vírtus.

Amph.
Édepol me uxori éxoptatum crédo adventurúm domum,
quae me amat, quam contra amo, praesertim re gesta bene,
victis hostibus: quos nemo posse superari ratust,
eos auspicio meo atque ductu primo coetu vicimus.
certe enim méd illi expectatum optato venturum scio.

Sos.
Quid? me non rere expectatum amicae venturum meae?

Alc.

Meus vir hic quidem est.

Amph.
Séquere hac tu me.

Alc.

Nam quid ille revortitur
qui dudum properare se aibat? án ille me temptat sciens
atque id se volt experiri, suom abitum ut desiderem?
ecastor med haud invita se domum recipit suam.

Sos.
Amphitruo, redire ad navem meliust nos.

Amph.
Qua gratia?

Sos.
Quia domi daturus nemo est prandium advenientibus.

Am.
Qui tibi nunc istuc in mentemst?

S.
Quia enim sero advenimus.

Amph.
Qui?

Sos.
Quia Alcumenam ante aedis stare saturam intellego.

Amph.
Gravidam ego illanc hic reliqui quóm abeo.

Sos.
Ei perii miser.

Am.
Quid tibi est?

S.
Ad aquam praebendam commodum adveni domum,
decumo post mense, ut rationem te putare intellego.

Am.
Bono animo es.

S.
Scin quam bono animo sim? si situlam cepero,
numquam edepol tu mihi divini creduis post hunc diem,
ní ego illi puteo, si occepso, ánimam omnem intertraxero.

Amph.
Sequere hac me modo; alium ego isti rei allegabo, ne time.

Al.

Magis nunc me meum officium facere, si huic eam advorsum,

arbitror.

Amph.
Amphitruo uxorem salutat laetus speratam suam,
quam omnium Thebis vir unam esse optimam diiudicat,
quamque adeo cives Thebani vero rumiferant probam.
valuistin usque? exspectatun advenio?

Sos.
Haud vidi magis.
exspectatum eum salutat magis haud quicquam quam canem.

Am.
Et quom te †gravidam et quom te pulchre plenam aspicio, gaudeo.

Alc.

Obsecro ecastor, quid tu me deridiculi gratia
sic salutas atque appellas, quasi dudum non videris
quasique nunc primum recipias te domum huc ex hostibus?
atque me nunc proinde appellas quasi multo post videris?

Amph.
Immo equidem te nisi nunc hodie nusquam vidi gentium.

Alc.

Cur negas?

Am.
Quia vera didici dicere.

Al.

Haud aequom facit
qui quod didicit id dediscit. an periclitamini
quid animi habeam? sed quid huc vos revortimini tam cito?
an te auspicium commoratum est an tempestas continet

qui non abiisti ad legiones, ita uti dudum dixeras?

Am.
Dudum? quam dudum istuc factum est?

Al.

Temptas. iam dudum, modo.

Amph.
Qui istuc potis est fieri, quaeso, ut dicis: iam dudum, modo?

Alc.

Quid enim censes? te ut deludam contra lusorem meum,
qui nunc primum te advenisse dicas, modo qui hinc abieris.

Amph.
Haec quidem deliramenta loquitur.

Sos.
Paulisper mane,
dum edormiscat unum somnum.

Amph.
Quaene vigilans somniat?

Alc.

Equidem ecastor vigilo, et vigilans id quod factum est fabulor.
nam dudum ante lucem et istunc et te vidi.

Amph.
Quo in loco?

Al.

Hic in aedibús ubi tu habitas.

Am.
Numquam factum est.

S.
Non taces?
quid si e portu navis huc nos dormientis detulit?

Amph.
Etiam tu quoque adsentaris húic?

Sos.
Quid vis fieri?
non tu scis? Bacchae bacchanti si velis advorsarier,
ex insana insaniorem facies, feriet saepius;
si obsequare, una resolvas plaga.

Amph.
At pol qui certa res
hanc est obiurgare, quae me hódie advenientem domum
noluerit salutare.

Sos.
Inritabis crabrones.

Amph.
Tace.
Alcumena, unum rogare te volo.

Alc.

Quid vis roga.

Amph.
Num tibi aut stultitia accessit aut superat superbia?

Alc.

Qui istuc in mentemst tibi ex me, mi vir, percontarier?

Amph.
Quia salutare advenientem me solebas antidhac,
appellare, itidem ut pudicae suos viros quae sunt solent.
eo more expertem te factam adveniens offendi domi.

Alc.

Ecastor equidem te certo heri advenientem ílico,
et salutavi et valuissesne usque exquisivi simul,
mi vir, et manum prehendi et osculum tetuli tibi.

Sos.
Tun heri hunc salutavisti?

Alc.

Et te quoque etiam, Sosia.

Sos.
Amphitruo, speravi ego istam tibi parituram filium;
verum non est puero gravida.

Amph.
Quid igitur?

Sos.
Insania.

Alc.

Equidem sana sum et deos quaeso, ut salva pariam filium.
verum tu malum mágnum habebis, si hic suom officium facit:
ob istuc omen, ominator, capies quod te condecet.

Sos.
Enim vero praegnati oportet et malum et malum dari,
ut quod obrodat sit, animo si male esse occeperit.

Amph.

Tu me heri hic vidisti?

Alc.

Ego, inquam, si vis decies dicere.

Am.
In somnis fortasse.

Al.

Immo vígilans vigilantem.

Am.
Ei misero mihi.

Sos.
Quid tibi est?

Amph.
Delirat uxor.

Sos.
Atra bili percita est.
nulla res tam delirantis homines concinnat cito.

Amph.
Vbi primum tibi sensisti, mulier, impliciscier?

Alc.

Equidem ecastor sana et salva sum.

Amph.
Quor igitur praedicas,
té heri me vidisse, qui hac noctu in portum advecti sumus?
ibi cenavi atque ibi quievi in navi noctem perpetem,
neque meum pedem huc íntuli etiam in aedis, ut cum exercitu
hinc profectus sum ad Teloboas hostis eosque ut vicimus.

Alc.

Immo mecum cenavisti et mecum cubuisti.

Amph.
Quid est?

Alc.

Vera dico.

Amph.
Non de hac quidem hercle re; de áliis nescio.

Alc.

Primulo diluculo abiisti ad legiones.

Amph.
Quo modo?

Sos.
Recte dicit, ut commeminit: somnium narrat tibi.
sed, mulier, postquam experrecta es, te prodigiali Iovi
aut mola salsa hodie aut ture comprecatam oportuit.

Alc.

Vae capiti tuó.

Sos.
Tua istuc refert — si curaveris.

Alc.

Iterum iám hic in me inclementer dicit, atque id sine malo.

Amph.
Tace tu. tu dic: egone abs te abii hinc hodie cum diluculo?

Alc.

Quis igitur nisi vos narravit mi, illi ut fuerit proelium?

Am.
An etiam id tu scis?

Al.

Quippe qui éx te audivi, ut urbem maximam
expugnavisses regemque Pterelam tute occideris.

Amph.
Egone istuc dixi?

Alc.

Tute istic, etiam adstante hoc Sosia.

Amph.
Audivistin tu me narrare haec hodie?

Sos.
Vbi ego audiverim?

Am.
Hanc roga.

S.
Me quidem praesente numquam factum est, quod sciam.

Alc.

Mirum quin te adversus dicat.

Amph.
Sosia, age me huc aspice.

Sos.

Specto.

Amph.
Vera volo loqui te, nolo adsentari mihi.
audivistin tu hodie me illi dicere ea quae illa autumat?

Sos.
Quaeso edepol, num tu quoque etiam insanis, quom id me interrogas,
qui ipsus equidem nunc primum istanc tecum conspicio simul?

Am.
Quid nunc, mulier? audin illum?

Al.

Ego véro, ac falsum dicere.

Amph.
Neque tu illi neque mihi viro ipsi credis?

Alc.

Eo fit quia mihi
plurimum credo et scio istaec facta proinde ut proloquor.

Am.
Tun me heri advenisse dicis?

Al.

Tun te abiisse hodie hinc negas?

Amph.
Nego enim vero, et me advenire nunc primum aio ad te domum.

Alc.

Obsecro, etiamne hoc negabis, te auream pateram mihi
dédisse dono hodié, qua te illi donatum esse dixeras?

Amph.
Neque edepol dedi neque dixi; verum ita animatus fui
itaque nunc sum, ut ea te patera donem. sed quis istúc tibi
dixit?

Alc.

Ego equidem ex te audivi et ex tua accepi manu
pateram.

Amph.
Mane, mane, obsecro te. nimis demiror, Sosia,
qui illaec illic me donatum esse aurea patera sciat,
nisi tu dudum hanc convenisti et narravisti haec omnia.

Sos.
Neque edepol ego dixi neque istam vidi nisi tecum simul.

Am.
Quid hoc sit hominis?

Al.

Vin proferri pateram?

Am.
Proferri volo.

Alc.

Fiat. heus tu, Thessala, intus pateram proferto foras,
qua hódie meus vir donavit me.

Amph.
Secede huc tu, Sosia,
enim vero illud praeter alia mira miror maxime,
si haec habet páteram illam.

Sos.

An etiam credis id, quae in hac cistellula
tuo signo obsignata fertur?

Amph.
Salvom signum est?

Sos.
Inspice.

Amph.
Recte, ita est ut obsignavi.

Sos.
Quaeso, quin tu istanc iubes
pro cerrita circumferri?

Amph.
Edepol qui facto est opus;
nam haec quidem edepol laruarum plenast.

Alc.

Quid verbis opust?
em tibi pateram, eccam.

Am.
Cedo mi.

Alc.

Age aspice huc sis nunciam
tu qui quae facta infitiare; quem égo iam hic convincam palam.
estne haec patera, qua donatu's illi?

Amph.
Summe Iuppiter,
quid ego video? haec ea est profecto patera. perii, Sosia.

Sos.

Aut pol haec praestigiatrix multo mulier maxima est
aut pateram hic inesse oportet.

Amph.
Agedum, exsolve cistulam.

Sos.
Quid ego istam exsolvam? obsignatast recte, res gesta est bene:
tu peperisti Ámphitruonem, ego alium peperi Sosiam;
nunc si patera pateram peperit, omnes congeminavimus.

Amph.
Certum est aperire atque inspicere.

Sos.
Vide sis signi quid siet,
ne posterius in me culpam conferas.

Amph.
Aperi modo;
nam haec quidem nos delirantis facere dictis postulat.

Alc.

Vnde haec igitur est nisi abs te quae mihi dono data est?

Amph.
Opus mi est istuc exquisito.

Sos.
Iuppiter, pro Iuppiter.

Am.
Quid tibi est?

S.
Hic patera nulla in cistulast.
AM.

Quid ego audio?

Sos.
Id quod verúmst.

Amph.
At cum cruciatu iam, nisi apparet, tuo.

Al.

Haec quidem apparet.

Am.
Quis igitur tibi dedit?

Al.

Qui me rogat.

Sos.
Me captas, quia tute ab navi clanculum huc alia via
praecucurristi, atque hinc pateram tute exemisti atque eam
huic dedisti, post hanc rursum óbsignasti clanculum.

Amph.
Ei mihi, iam tu quoque huius adiuvas insaniam?
ain heri nos advenisse huc?

Alc.

Aio, adveniensque ilico
me salutavisti, et ego te, et osculum tetuli tibi.

Sos.
Iam illud non placet principium de osculo.

Amph.
Perge exsequi.

Alc.

Lavisti.

Am.
Quid postquam lavi?

Al.

Accubuisti.

S.
Euge optime.
nunc exquire.

Amph.
Ne interpella. perge porro dicere.

Alc.

Cena adposita est; cenavisti mecum, ego accubui simul.

Amph.
175 In eodem lectó?

Alc.

In eodem.

Sos.
Ei, non placet convivium.

Amph.
Sine modo argumenta dicat. quid postquam cenavimus?

Alc.

Te dormitare aibas; mensa ablata est, cubitum hinc abiimus.

Amph.
Vbi tu cubuisti?

Alc.

In eodem lectó tecum una in cubiculo.

Am.
Perdidisti.

Sos.
Quid tibi est?

Am.
Haec me modo ad mortem dedit.

Al.

Quid iam, amabo?

Am.
Ne me appella.

S.
Quid tibi est?

A.
Perii miser,
quia pudicitiae huius vitium me hinc absente est additum.

Alc.

Obsecro ecastor, cur istuc, mi vir, ex ted audio?

Amph.
Vir ego tuos sim? ne me appella, falsa, falso nomine.

Sos.
Haeret haec res, si quidem haec iam mulier facta est ex viro.

Alc.

Quid ego feci, qua istaec propter dicta dicantur mihi?

Amph.
Tute edictas facta tua, ex me quaeris quid deliqueris.

Alc.

Quid ego tibi deliqui, si, cui nupta sum, tecum fui?

Amph.
Tun mecum fueris? quid illac impudente audacius?
saltem, tute si pudoris egeas, sumas mutuom.

Alc.

Istuc facinus, quod tu insimulas, nostro generi non decet.
tu si me inpudicitiai captas, capere non potes.

Amph.
Pro di immortales, cognoscin tu me saltem, Sosia?

Sos.
Propemodum.

Amph.
Cenavin ego heri in navi in portu Persico?

Alc.

Mihi quoque adsunt testes, qui illud quod ego dicam adsentiant.

Sos.
Nescio quid istúc negoti dicam, nisi si quispiam est
Amphitruó alius, qui forte ted hinc absenti tamen
tuam rem curet teque absente hic munus fungatur tuom.
nam quod de illo subditivo Sosia mirum nimis,
certe de istoc Amphitruone iam alterum mirum est magis.

Amph.
Nescio quis praestigiator hanc frustratur mulierem.

Alc.

Per supremi regis regnum iuro et matrem familias
Iunonem, quam me vereri et metuere est par maxume,
ut mi extra unum te mortalis nemo corpus corpore
contigit, quo me impudicam faceret.

Amph.
Vera istaec velim.

Alc.

Vera dico, sed nequiquam, quoniam non vis credere.

Amph.
Mulier es, audacter iuras.

Alc.

Quae non deliquit, decet
audacem esse, confidenter pro se et proterve loqui.

Amph.
Satis audacter.

Alc.

Vt pudicam decet.

Am.
†In verbis probas.

Alc.

Non ego illam mihi dotem duco esse, quae dos dicitur,
sed pudicitiam et pudorem et sedatum cupidinem,

deum metum, parentum amorem et cognatum concordiam,
tibi morigera atque ut munifica sim bonis, prosim probis.

Sos.
Ne ista edepol, si haec vera loquitur, examussim est optima.

Amph.
Delenitus sum profecto ita, ut me qui sim nesciam.

Sos.
Amphitruo es profecto, cave sis ne tu te usu perduis:
ita nunc homines immutantur, postquam peregre advenimus.

Amph.
Mulier, istam rem inquisitam certum est non amittere.

Alc.

Edepol me libente facies.

Amph.
Quid ais? responde mihi,
quid si adduco tuom cognatum húc a navi Naucratem,
qui mecum una vectust una navi, atque is si denegat
facta quae tu facta dicis, quid tibi aequom est fieri?
numquid causam dicis, quin te hoc multem matrimonio?

Alc.

Si deliqui, nulla causa est.

Amph.
Convenit. tu, Sosia,
duc hos intro. ego huc ab navi mecum adducam Naucratem. —

Sos.
Nunc quidem praeter nos nemo est. dic mihi verum serio:
ecquis alius Sosia intust, qui mei similis siet?

Alc.

Abin hinc a me dignus domino servos?

Sos.
Abeo, si iubes. —

Alc.

Nimis ecastor facinus mirum est, qui illi conlibitum siet
meo viro sic me insimulare falso facinus tam malum.
quidquid est, iam ex Naucrate cognato id cognoscam meo. —

ACT III.

Ivppiter
Ego sum ille Amphitruo, cui est servos Sosia,
idem Mercurius qui fit, quando commodumst,
in superiore quí habito cenaculo,
qui interdum fio Iuppiter, quando lubet;
huc autem quom extemplo adventum adporto, ilico
Amphitruo fio et vestitum immuto meum.
nunc huc honoris vostri venio gratia,
ne hanc incohatam transigam comoediam;
simul Alcumenae, quam vir insontem probri
Amphitruo accusat, veni ut auxilium feram:
nam mea sit culpa, quod egomet contraxerim,
si id Alcumenae innocenti expetat.
nunc Amphitruonem memet, út occepi semel,
esse adsimulabo, atque in horum familiam
frustrationem hodie iniciam maxumam;
post igitur demum faciam res fiat palam
atque Alcumenae in tempore auxilium feram
faciamque ut uno fetu et quod gravida est viro
et me quod gravidast pariat sine doloribus.
Mercurium iussi me continuo consequi,
si quid vellem imperare. nunc hanc adloquar.

Alcvmena
Durare nequeo in aedibus. ita me probri,
stupri, dedecoris a viro argutam meo!
ea quae sunt facta infecta ut reddat clamitat,
quae neque sunt facta neque ego in me admisi arguit;
atque id me susque deque esse habituram putat.
non edepol faciam, neque me perpetiar probri
falso insimulatam, quin ego illum aut deseram
aut sátis faciat mi ille átque adiuret insuper,
nolle esse dicta quae in me insontem protulit.

Ivpp.
Faciundum est mi illud, fieri quód illaec postulat,
si me illam amantem ad sese studeam recipere,
quando ego quod feci, id factum Amphitruoni offuit
atque illi dudum meus amor negotium
insonti exhibuit, nunc autem insonti mihi
illius ira in hanc et male dicta expetent.

Alc.

Sed eccum video qui me miseram arguit
stupri, dedecoris.

Ivpp.
Te volo, uxor, conloqui.
quo te avortisti? ...

Alc.

Ita ingenium meumst:
inimicos semper osa sum optuerier.

Ivpp.
Heia autem inimicos?

Alc.

Sic est, vera praedico;
nisi etiam hoc falso dici insimulaturus es.

Ivpp.
Nimis iracunda es.

Alc.

Potin ut abstineas manum?
nam certo, si sis sanus aut sapias satis,
quam tu impudicam esse arbitrere et praedices,

cum ea tú sermonem nec ioco nec serio
tibi habeas, nisi sis stultior stultissimo.

Ivpp.
Si dixi, nihilo magis es, neque ego esse arbitror,
et id huc revorti uti me purgarem tibi.
nam numquam quicquam meo animo fuit aegrius,
quam postquam audivi ted esse iratam mihi.
cur dixisti? inquies. ego expediam tibi.
non edepol quo te esse impudicam crederem;
verum periclitatus súm animum tuom,
quid faceres et quo pacto id ferre induceres.
equidem ioco illa dixeram dudum tibi,
ridiculi causa. vél hunc rogato Sosiam.

Alc.

Quin huc adducis meum cognatum Naucratem,
testem quem dudum te adducturum dixeras,
te huc non venisse?

Ivpp.
Si quid dictum est per iocum,
non aequom est id te serio praevortier.

Alc.

Ego illúd scio quam doluerit cordi meo.

Ivpp.
Per dexteram tuam te, Alcumena, oro obsecro,
da mihi hanc veniam, ignosce, irata ne sies.

Alc.

Ego istaec feci verba virtute irrita;
nunc, quando factis me impudicis abstini,
ab impudicis dictis avorti volo.

valeas, tibi habeas res tuas, reddas meas.
iuben mi íre comites?

Ivpp.
Sanan es?

Alc.

Si non iubes,
ibo egomet; comitem mihi Pudicitiam duxero.†

Ivpp.
Mane. arbitratu tuo ius iurandum dabo,
me meam pudicam esse uxorem arbitrarier.
id ego si fallo, tum te, summe Iuppiter,
quaeso, Amphitruoni ut semper iratus sies.

Alc.

A, propitius sit potius.

Ivpp.
Confido fore;
nam ius iurandum verum te advorsum dedi.
iam nunc irata non es?

Alc.

Non sum.

Ivpp.
Bene facis.
nam in hominum aetate multa eveniunt huius modi:
capiunt voluptátes, capiunt rursum miserias;
irae interveniunt, redeunt rursum in gratiam.
verum irae si quae forte eveniunt huius modi
inter eos, rursum si reventum in gratiam est,
bis tanto amici sunt inter se quam prius.

Alc.

Primum cavisse oportuit ne diceres,
verum eadem si isdem purgas mi, patiunda sunt.

Ivpp.
Iube véro vasa pura adornari mihi,
ut quae ápud legionem vota vovi, si domum
rediissem salvos, ea ego exsolvam omnia.

Alc.

Ego istuc curabo.

Ivpp.
Evocate huc Sosiam;
gubernatorem qui in mea navi fuit
Blepharonem arcessat, qui nobiscum prandeat.
is adeo ... inpransus ludificabitur,
cum ego Amphitruonem collo hinc obstricto traham.

Alc.

Mirum quid solus secum secreto ille agat.
atque aperiuntur aedes. exit Sosia.

Sosia
Ámphitruo, assum. sí quid opus est, impera, imperium éxequar.

Ivpp.
Sosia, optume advenis.

Sos.
Iam pax est inter vos duos?
nam quia vos tranquillos video, gaudeo et volup est mihi.
atque ita servom par videtur frugi sese instituere:
proinde eri ut sint, ipse item sit; voltum e voltu comparet:
tristis sit, si eri sint tristes; hilarus sit, si gaudeant.

sed age responde: iam vos rediistis in concordiam?

Ivpp.
Derides, qui scis haec dudum me dixisse per iocum.

Sos.
An id ioco dixisti? équidem serio ac vero ratus.

Ivpp.
Habui expurigationem; facta pax est.

Sos.
Optume est.

Ivpp.
Ego rem divinam intus faciam, vota quae sunt.

Sos.
Censeo.

Ivpp.
Tu gubernatorem a navi huc evoca verbis meis
Blepharonem, qui re divina facta mecum prandeat.

Sos.
Iam hic ero, cum illic censebis esse me. —

Ivpp.
Actutum huc redi.

Alc.

Numquid vis, quin abeam iam intro, ut apparentur quibus opust?

Ivpp.
I sane, et quantum potest parata fac sint omnia.

Alc.

Quin venis quando vis intro? faxo haud quicquam sit morae. —

Ivpp.
Recte loquere et proinde diligentem ut uxorem decet.
iam hisce ambo, et servos et era, frustra sunt duo,
qui me Amphitruonem rentur esse: errant probe.
nunc tu divine húc fac adsis Sosia
(audis quae dico, tam etsi praesens non ades),
fac Amphitruonem ádvenientem ab aedibus
ut abigas; quovis pacto fac commentus sis.
volo déludi illunc, dum cum hac usuraria
uxore nunc mihi morigero. haec curata sint
fac sis, proinde adeo ut velle med intellegis,
atque ut ministres mihi, mihi cum sacruficem.

Mercvrivs
Concédite atque abscédite omnes, dé via decédite,
nec quísquam tam audax fúat homo, qui óbviam obsistát mihi.
nam mihi quidem hercle qui minus liceat deo minitarier
populo, ni decedat mihi, quam servolo in comoediis?
ille návem salvam nuntiat aut irati adventum senis:
ego sum Iovi dicto audiens, eius iussu nunc huc me adfero.
quam ob rem mihi magis par est via decedere et concedere.
pater vocat me, eum sequor, eius dicto imperio sum audiens;
ut filium bonum patri esse oportet, itidem ego sum patri.
amanti subparasitor, hortor, adsto, admoneo, gaudeo.
si quid patri volup est, voluptas ea mi multo maxumast.
amat: sapit; recte facit, animo quando obsequitur suo,
quod omnis homines facere oportet, dum id modo fiat bono.
nunc Amphitruonem volt deludi meus pater: faxo probe
iam hic deludetur, spectatores, vobis inspectantibus.
capiam coronam mi in caput, adsimulabo me esse ebrium;
atque illuc sursum escendero: inde optume aspellam virum
de supero, cum huc accesserit; faciam ut sit madidus sobrius.
deinde illi actutum sufferet suos servos poenas Sosia:
eum fécisse ille hodie arguet quae ego feceró hic. quid mea?
meo me aéquomst morigerum patri, eius studio servire addecet.

sed eccum Amphitruonem, advenit; iam ille hic deludetur probe,
siquidém vos voltis auscultando operam dare.
ibo intro, ornatum capiam qui potis decet;
dein susum ascendam in tectum, ut illum hinc prohibeam.

ACT IV.

Amphitrvo
Naúcratem quem cónvenire vólui, in navi nón erat,
neque domi neque in urbe invenio quemquam qui illum viderit.
nam omnis plateas perreptavi, gymnasia et myropolia;
apud emporium atque in macello, ín palaestra atque in foro,
in medicinis, in tonstrinis, apud omnis aedis sacras
sum defessus quaeritando: nusquam invenio Naucratem.
nunc domum ibo atque ex uxore hánc rem pergam exquirere,
quis fuerit quem propter corpus suom stupri compleverit.
nam me, quam illam quaestionem inquisitam hodie amittere,
mortuom satiust. sed aedis occluserunt. eugepae,
pariter hoc fit atque ut alia facta sunt. feriam foris.
aperite hoc. heus, ecquis hic est? ecquis hoc aperit ostium?

Mercvrivs
Quís ad fores est?

Amph.
Égo sum.

Merc.
Quid ego sum.

Amph.
Íta loquor.

Merc.
Tibi Iúppiter
dique omnes irati certo sunt, qui sic frangas fores.

Amph.
Quo modo?

Merc.
Eo modo, ut profecto vivas aetatem miser.

Amph.
Sosia.

Merc.
Ita, sum Sosia, nisi me esse oblitum existimas.
quid nunc vis?

Amph.
Sceleste, at etiam quid velim, id tu me rogas?

Merc.
Ita, rogo. paene effregisti, fatue, foribus cardines.
an foris censebas nobis publicitus praeberier?
quid me aspectas, stolide? quid nunc vis tibi? aut quis tu es homo?

Amph.
Verbero, etiam quis ego sim me rogitas, ulmorum Acheruns?
quem pol ego hodie ob istaec dicta faciam ferventem flagris.

Merc.
Prodigum te fuisse oportet olim in adulescentia.

Amph.
Quidum?

Merc.
Quia senecta aetate á me mendicas malum.

Amph.
Cum cruciatu tuo istaec hodie, verna, verba funditas.

Merc.
Sacrufico ego tibi.

A.
Qui?

M.

Quia enim te macto infortunio.
“
Amph.
15At ego te cruce et cruciatu mactabo, mastigia.
“
Non.**342**M
“
(Merc.)
Érus Amphitruost occupatus.
“
Non.**354**M
“
(Merc.)
abiendi nunc tibi etiam occasiost.
“
Prisc.&**3**GL&**2.564**K
“
(Merc.)
Optimo iure infringatur aula cineris in caput.
(Merc.)
Ne tu postules matulam unam tibi aquae ínfundi in caput.
“
Non.**543**M
“
(Merc.)
20Laruatu’s. edepol hominem miserum. medicum quaerita.
“
Non.**44**M
“
(Alc.)
Exiúravisti te mihi dixe per iocum.
“
Non.**105**M
“
(Alc.)
Quaeso advenienti morbo medicari iube:
tu certe aut laruatus aut cerritus es.

“

Non.**44**M,**247**M

“

(Alc.)

Nisi hoc ita factum est, proinde ut factum esse autumo,

25non causam dico quin vero insimules probri

“

Non.**237**M

“

(Amph.)

Cuius? quaé me absente corpus volgavit suom.

“

Non.**182**M

“

(Amph.)

Quíd minitabas te facturum, si istas pepulissem fores?

“

Non.**473**M

“

(Amph.)

Ibi scrobes ecfodito tu plus sexagenos in die.

“

Prisc.&**3**GL&**2**.**168**K,**2**.**321**K

“

(Amph.)

Noli pessimo precari.

“

Serv.&**3**A.&**8**.

“

(Bleph.)

30animam comprime

“

Non.**233**M

“

(Ivpp.)
Mánifestum hunc optorto collo teneo furem flagiti.
“
Non.**453**M
“
(Amph.)
Immo ego hunc, Thebani cives, qui domi uxorem meam impudicitia impedivit, teneo, thensaurum stupri.
“
Non.**331**M
“
(Amph.)
Nilne te pudet, sceleste, populi in conspectum ingredi?
“
Non.**454**M
“
(Amph.)
35clandestino
“
&**3**Gloss.Plaut.&
“
(Amph. sive Ivpp.)
Qui nequeas nostrorum uter sit Amphitruo decernere.
“
Non.**285**M
(Bleph.)
Vós inter vos partite; ego abeo, mihi negotium est;
neque ego umquam usquam tanta mira me vidisse censeo.

Amph.
Blepharo, quaeso ut advocatus mi adsis neve abeas.

Bleph.
Vale.

quid opust me advocato, quí utri sim advocatus nescio? —

Ivpp.
Intro ego hinc eo. Alcumena parturit. —

Amph.
Perii miser.
quid ego faciam, quem advocati iam atque amici deserunt?
numquam edepol me inultus istic ludificabit, quisquis est;
nam iam ad regem recta me ducam resque ut facta est eloquar.†
ego pol illum ulciscar hodie Thessalum veneficum,
qui pervorse perturbavit familiae mentem meae.
sed ubi illest? intro edepol abiit, credo ad uxorem meam.
qui me Thebis alter vivit miserior? quid nunc agam,
quem omnes mortales ignorant et ludificant ut lubet.
certumst, intro rumpam in aedis: ubi quemque hominem aspexero,
si ancillam seu servom sive uxorem sive adulterum
seu patrem sive ávom videbo, óbtruncabo in aedibus.
neque me Iuppiter neque di omnes id prohibebunt, si volent,
quin sic faciam ut constitui. pergam in aedis nunciam.

ACT V.

Bromia
Spes átque opes vitaé meae iacént sepultae in pectore,
neque ullast confidentia iam in corde, quin amiserim;
ita mihi videntur omnia, mare terra caelum, consequi,
iam ut opprimar, ut enicer. me miseram, quid agam nescio.
ita tanta mira in aedibus sunt facta. vae miserae mihi,
animo malest, aquam velim. corrupta sum atque absumpta sum.
caput dolet, neque audio, nec oculis prospicio satis,
nec me miserior femina est neque ulla videatur magis.
ita erae meae hodie contigit. nam ubi parturit, deos síbi invocat,
strepitús, crepitus, sonitús, tonitrus: ut subito, ut propere, ut valide tonuit!
ubi quísque institerat, cóncidit crepitu. íbi nescio quis máxuma
vóce exclamat: “Alcumena, adest auxilium, ne time:
et tibi et tuis propitius caeli cultor advenit.
exsúrgite” inquit ‘qui terrore meo occidistis prae metu.’
ut iácui, exsurgo. ardére censui aédis, ita tum cónfulgebant.
íbi me inclamat Álcumena; iam éa res me horrore ádficit,
erílis praevertít metus: accúrro, ut sciscam quíd velit.
atque illam geminos filios pueros peperisse conspicor;
neque nostrum quisquam sensimus, quom peperit, neque providimus.
séd quid hoc? quis hicést senex, qui ante aédis nostras síc iacet?
numnam húnc percussit Iúppiter?
credo édepol, nam, pro Iúppiter, sepúltust quasi sit mórtuos.
ibo et cognoscam, quisquis est. Amphitruo híc quidem est érus meus.

Amphítruo.

A.
Perii.

B.
Súrge.

A.

Interii.

B.
Cédo manum.

A.
Quis mé tenet?

Br.
Tua Bromia ancilla.

Am.
Totus timeo, íta me increpuit Iuppiter.
nec secus est, quasi si ab Acherunte veniam. sed quid tu foras
egressa es?

Brom.
Eadem nos formido timidas terrore impulit
in aedibus, tu ubi habitas. nimia mira vidi. vae mihi,
Amphitruo, íta mihi animus etiam nunc abest.

Amph.
Agedum expedi:
scin me tuom esse erum Amphitruonem?

B.
Scio.

A.
Vide etiam nunc.

B.
Scio.
Amph.
Haec sola sanam mentem gestat meorum familiarium.

Brom.
Immo omnes sani sunt profecto.

A.
At me uxor insanum facit
suis foedis factis.

Brom.
At ego faciam, tu idem ut aliter praedices,
Ámphitruo, piam et pudicam ésse tuam uxorem ut scias.
de ea re signa atque argumenta paucis verbis eloquar.
omnium primum: Alcumena geminos peperit filios.

A.
Ain tu, geminos?

B.
Geminos.

A.
Di me servant.

B.
Sine me dicere,
ut scias tibi tuaeque uxori deos esse omnis propitios.

Amph.
Loquere.

Brom.
Postquam parturire hodie uxor occepit tua,
ubi utero exorti dolores, ut solent puerperae
invocat deos immortales, ut sibi auxilium ferant,
manibus puris, capite operto. íbi continuo contonat
sonitu maxumo; aedes primo ruere rebamur tuas.
aedes totae confulgebant tuae, quasi essent aureae.

Amph.
Quaeso absolvito hinc me extemplo, quando satis deluseris.
quid fit deinde?

Brom.
Dum haec aguntur, interea uxorem tuam
neque gementem neque plorantem nostrum quisquam audivimus;
ita profecto sine dolore peperit.

Amph.
Iam istuc gaudeo,
utut erga me merita est.

Brom.
Mitte ista atque haec quae dicam accipe.
postquam peperit, pueros lavere iussit nos. occepimus.
sed puer ille quém ego lavi, ut magnust et multum valet!
neque eum quisquam colligare quivit incunabulis.

Amph.
Nimia mira memoras; si istaec vera sunt, divinitus
non metuo quin méae uxori latae suppetiae sient.

Brom.
Magis iam faxo mira dices. postquam in cunas conditust,
devolant angues iubati deorsum in impluvium duo
maximi: continuo extollunt ambo capita.

Amph.
Ei mihi.

Brom.
Ne pave. sed angues oculis omnis circumvisere.
postquam pueros conspicati, pergunt ad cunas citi.
ego cunas recessim rursum vorsum trahere et ducere,
metuens pueris, mihi formidans; tantoque angues acrius
persequi. postquam conspexit angues ille alter puer,
citus e cunis exilit, facit recta in anguis impetum:
alterum altera prehendit eos manu perniciter.

Amph.
Mira memoras, nimis formidolosum facinus praedicas;

nam mihi horror membra misero percipit dictis tuis.
quid fit deinde? porro loquere.

Brom.
Puer ambo angues enicat.
dum haec aguntur, voce clara exclamat uxorem tuam —

A.
Quis homo?

B.
Summus imperator divom atque hominum Iuppiter.
is se dixit cum Alcumena clam consuetum cubitibus,
eumque filium suom esse qui illos angues vicerit;
alterum tuom esse dixit puerum.

Amph.
Pol me haud paenitet,
si licet boni dimidium mihi dividere cum Iove.
abi domum, iube vasa pura actutum adornari mihi,
ut Iovis supremi multis hostiis pacem expetam.
ego Teresiam coniectorem ádvocabo et consulam
quid faciundum censeat; simul hanc rem ut facta est eloquar.
sed quid hoc? quam valide tonuit. di, obsecro vostram fidem.

Ivppiter
Bono ánimo es, adsum auxílio, Amphitruo, tíbi et tuis:
nihil est quod timeas. hariolos, haruspices
mitte omnes; quae futura et quae facta eloquar,
multo adeo melius quam illi, quom sum Iuppiter.
primum omnium Alcumenae usuram corporis
cepi, et concubitu gravidam feci filio.
tu gravidam item fecisti, cúm in exercitum
profectu's: uno partu duos peperit simul.
eorum alter, nostro qui est susceptus semine,
suis factis te immortali adficiet gloria.
tu cum Alcumena uxore antiquam in gratiam

redi: haud promeruit quam ob rem vitio vorteres;
mea vi subactast facere. ego in caelum migro. —

Amph.
Fáciam ita ut iubés et te oro, prómissa ut servés tua.
ibo ad uxorem intro, missum facio Teresiam senem.
nunc, spectatores, Iovis súmmi causa clare plaudite.

ASINARIA

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PROLOGVS

Hoc agite sultis, spectatores, nunciam,
quae quidem mihi atque vobis res vertat bene
gregique huíc et dominis atque conductoribus.
face nunciam tu, praeco, omnem auritum poplum.
age nunc reside, cave modo ne gratiis.
nunc quid processerim huc et quid mihi voluerim
dicam: ut sciretis nomen huius fabulae;
nam quod ad argumentum attinet, sane brevest.
nunc quod me dixi velle vobis dicere,
dicam: húic nomen graece Onagost fabulae;
Demophilus scripsit, Maccus vortit barbare;
Asinariam volt esse, si per vos licet.
inest lepos ludusque in hac comoedia,
ridicula res est. date benigne operam mihi,
ut vos, ut alias, pariter nunc Mars adiuvet.

ACT I.

Libanvs
Sicut tuom vis unicum gnatum tuae
superesse vitae sospitem et superstitem,
ita ted obtestor per senectutem tuam
perque illam, quam tu metuis, uxorem tuam,
si quid med erga hodie falsum dixeris,
ut tibi superstes uxor aetatem siet
atque illa viva vivos ut pestem oppetas.

Demaenetvs
Per Dium Fidium quaeris: iurato mihi
video necesse esse eloqui quidquid roges.
ita me obstinate adgressu's, ut non audeam
profecto, percontanti quin promam omnia.
proinde actutum istuc quid sit quod scire expetis
eloquere: ut ipse scibo, te faciam ut scias.

Lib.

Dic obsecro hercle serio quod te rogem,
cave míhi mendaci quicquam.

Dem.
Quin tu ergo rogas?

Lib.

Num me illuc ducis, ubi lapis lapidem terit?

Dem.
Quid istúc est? aut ubi istúc est terrarum loci?

Lib.

Vbi flent nequam homines, qui polentam pinsitant.

apud fústitudinas, ferricrepinas insulas,
ubi vivos homines mortui incursant boves.

Dem.
Modo pol percepi, Libane, quid istuc sit loci:
ubi fit polenta, te fortasse dicere.

Lib.

Ah,
neque hercle ego istuc dico nec dictum volo,
teque obsecro hercle ut quae locutu's despuas.

Dem.
Fiat, geratur mos tibi.

Lib.

Age, age usque excrea.

Dem.
Etiamne?

Lib.

Age quaeso hercle usque ex penitis faucibus.
etiam amplius.

Dem.
Nam quo usque?

Lib.

Vsque ad mortem volo.

Dem.
Cave sís malam rem.

Lib.

Vxoris dico, non tuam.

Dem.
Dono te ob istuc dictum, ut expers sis metu.

Lib.

Di tibi dent quaecumque optes.

Dem.
Redde operam mihi.
cur hoc ego ex te quaeram? aut cur miniter tibi
propterea quod me non scientem feceris?
aut cur postremo filio suscenseam,
patres ut faciunt ceteri?

Lib.

Quid istúc novi est?
demiror quid sit et quo evadat sum in metu.

Dem.
Equidem scio iam, filius quod amet meus
istanc meretricem e proxumo Philaenium.
estne hoc ut dico, Libane?

Lib.

Rectam instas viam.
ea res est. sed eum morbus invasit gravis.

Dem.
Quid morbi est?

Lib.

Quia non suppetunt dictis data.

Dem.

Tune es adiutor nunc amanti filio?

Lib.

Sum vero, et alter noster est Leonida.

Dem.
Bene hercle facitis ét a me initis gratiam.
verum meam uxorem, Libane, nescis qualis sit?

Lib.

Tu primus sentis, nos tamen in pretio sumus.

Dem.
Fateór eam esse importunam atque incommodam.

Lib.

Posterius istuc dicis quam credo tibi.

Dem.
Omnes parentes, Libane, liberis suis,
qui mi auscultabunt, facient obsequellam†
quippe quí mage amico utantur gnato et benevolo.
atque ego me id facere studeo, volo amari a meis;
volo mé patris mei similem, qui causa mea
nauclerico ipse ornatu per fallaciam
quam amabam abduxit ab lenone mulierem;
neque puduit eum id aetatis sycophantias
struere et beneficiis me emere gnatum suom sibi.
eos mé decretumst persequi mores patris.
nam me hodie oravit Argyrippus filius,
uti sibi amanti facerem argenti copiam;
et íd ego percupio obsequi gnato meo.
volo amori obsecutum illius, volo amet me patrem.
quamquam illum mater arte contenteque habet,
patres ut consueverunt: ego mitto omnia haec.

praesertim quom is me dignum quoi concrederet
habuit, me habere honorem eius ingenio decet;
quom me adiit, ut pudentem gnatum aequomst patrem,
cupio esse amicae quod det argentum suae.

Lib.

Cupis id quod cupere te nequiquam intellego.
dotalem servom Sauream uxor tua
adduxit, cui plus in manu sit quam tibi.

Dem.
Argentum accepi, dote imperium vendidi.
nunc verba in pauca conferam quid te velim.
viginti iam usust filio argenti minis:
face id ut paratum iam sit.

Lib.

Vnde gentium?

Dem.
Me defraudato.

Lib.

Maxumas nugas agis:
nudo detrahere vestimenta me iubes.
defraudem te ego? age sís, tu sine pennis vola.
tene ego defraudem, cui ipsi nihil est in manu,
nisi quid tu porro uxorem defraudaveris?

Dem.
Qua me, qua uxorem, qua tu servom Sauream
potes, circumduce, aufer; promitto tibi
non offuturum, si id hodie effeceris.

Lib.

Iubeas una opera me piscari in aere,
venari autem rete iaculo in medio mari.†

Dem.
Tibi optionem sumito Leonidam,
fabricare quidvis, quidvis comminiscere:
perficito, argentum hodie ut habeat filius,
amicae quod det.

Lib.

Quid ais tu, Demaenete?

Dem.
Quid vis?

Lib.

Si forte in insidias devenero,
tun redimes me, si me hostes interceperint?

Dem.
Redimam.

Lib.

Tum tu igitur aliud cura quid lubet.
ego eo ad forum, nisi quid vis.

Dem.
Ei, bene ambula.
atque audin etiam?

Lib.

Ecce.

Dem.
Si quid te volam,

ubi eris?

Lib.

Vbicumque libitum erit animo meo.
profecto nemo est quem iam dehinc metuam mihi
ne quid nocere possit, cum tu mihi tua
oratione omnem animum ostendisti tuom.
quin te quoque ipsum facio haud magni, si hoc patro.
pergam quo occepi atque ibi consilia exordiar.

Dem.
Audin tu? apud Archibulum ego ero argentarium.

Lib.

Nempe in foro?

Dem.
Ibi, si quid opus fuerit.

Lib.

Meminero. —

Dem.
Non esse servos peior hoc quisquam potest
nec magis versutus nec quo ab caveas aegrius.
eidem homini, si quid recte curatum velis,
mandes: moriri sese misere mavolet,
quam non perfectum reddat quod promiserit.
nam ego illud argentum tam paratum filio
scio esse quam me hunc scipionem contui.
sed quid ego cesso ire ad forum, quo inceperam?
... atque ibi manebo apud argentarium. —

Argyrippvs
Sícine hoc fít? foras aédibus me éici?

promerenti optume hocin preti redditur?
bene merenti mala es, male merenti bona es;
at malo cum tuo, nam iam ex hoc loco
íbo ego ad trés viros vóstraque ibi nómina
faxo erunt, capitis te perdam ego et filiam,
pérlecebrae, pérmities, ádulescentum exitium.
nám mare haud ést mare, vós mare acérrumum;
nam in mari repperi, hic elavi bonis.
ingrata atque inrita esse omnia intellego
quae dedi et quod bene feci, at posthac tibi
mále quod potero fácere faciam, méritoque id faciám tuo.
ego pol te redigam eodem unde orta es, ad egestatis terminos,
ego edepol te faciam ut quae sis nunc et quae fueris scias.
quae prius quam ístam adii atque amans ego animum méum isti dedi,
sordido vitam oblectabas pane in pannis inopia,
atque ea si érant, magnás habebas omnibus dis gratias;
eadem nunc, cum est melius, me, cuius opera est, ignoras mala.
reddam ego te ex fera fame mansuetem, me specta modo.
nam isti quid suscenseam ipsi? nihil est, nihil quicquam meret;
tuo facit iussu, tuo imperio paret: mater tu, eadem era es.
té ego ulciscar, té ego ut digna es perdam atque ut de me meres.
at scelesta viden ut ne id quidem, me dignum esse existumat
quém adeat, quem conloquatur quoique irato supplicet?
atque eccam inlecebra exit tandem; opinor hic ante ostium
meo modo loquar quaé volam, quoniam intus non licitum est mihi.

Cleareta
Vnum quodque istorum verbum nummis Philippis aureis
non potest auferre hinc a me si quis emptor venerit;
nec recte quae tu in nos dicis, aurum atque argentum merumst:
fixus hic apud nós est animus tuos clavo Cupidinis.
remigio veloque quantum poteris festina et fuge:
quam magis té in altum capessis, tam aestus te in portum refert.

Argyr.
Ego pol istum portitorem privabo portorio;

ego te dehinc ut merita es de me et mea re tractare exsequar,
quom tu med ut meritus sum non tractas atque eicis domo.

Clear.
Magis istuc percipimus lingua dici, quam factis fore.

Argyr.
Solus solitudine ego ted atque ab egestate abstuli;
solus si ductem, referre gratiam numquam potes.

Clear.
Solus ductato, si semper solus quae poscam dabis;
semper tibi promissum habeto hac lege, dum superes datis.

Argyr.
Qui modus dandi? nam numquam tu quidem expleri potes;
modo quom accepisti, haud multo post aliquid quod poscas paras.

Clear.
Quid modist ductando, amando? numquamne expleri potes?
modo remisisti, continuo iam ut remittam ad te rogas.

A.
Dedi equidem quod mecum egisti.

C.
Et tibi ego misi mulierem:
par pari datum hostimentumst, opera pro pecunia.

A.
Male agis mecum.

C.
Quid me accusas, si facio officium meum?
nam neque fictum usquamst neque pictum neque scriptum in poematis
ubi lena bene agat cum quiquam amante, quae frugi esse volt.

Argyr.
Mihi quidem te parcere aequomst tandem, ut tibi durem diu.

Clear.
Non tu scis? quae amanti parcet, eadem sibi parcet parum.
quasi piscis, itidemst amator lenae: nequam est, nisi recens;
is habet sucum, is suavitatem, eum quo vis pacto condias,
vel patinarium vel assum, verses quo pacto lubet:
is dare volt, is se aliquid posci, nam ibi de pleno promitur;
neque ille scit quid det, quid damni faciat: illi rei studet.
volt placere sese amicae, volt mihi, volt pedisequae,
volt famulis, volt etiam ancillis; et quoque catulo meo
subblanditur novos amator, se ut quom videat gaudeat.
vera dico: ad suom quemque hominem quaestum esse aequomst
callidum.

Argyr.
Perdidici istaec esse vera damno cum magno meo.

Clear.
Si ecastor nunc habeas quod des, alia verba praehibeas;
nunc quia nihil habes, maledictis te eam ductare postulas.

A.
Non meum est.

C.
Nec meum quidem edepol, ad te ut mittam gratiis.
verum aetatis atque honoris gratia hoc fiet tui,
quia nobis lucro fuisti potius quam decori tibi:
si mihi dantur duo talenta argenti numerata in manum,
hanc tibi noctem honoris causa gratiis dono dabo.

A.
Quid si non est?

C.
Tibi non esse credam, illa alio ibit tamen.

A.
Vbi illaec quae dedi ante?

C.
Abusa. nam si ea durarent mihi,
mulier mitteretur ad te, numquam quicquam poscerem.
diem aquam solem lunam noctem, haec argento non emo:
ceterum quae volumus uti Graeca mercamur fide.
quom a pistore panem petimus, vinum ex oenopolio,
si aes habent, dant mercem: eadem nos discipulina utimur.
semper oculatae manus sunt nostrae, credunt quod vident.
vetus est: 'nihili coactiost' — scis cuius. non dico amplius.

Argyr.
Aliam nunc mi orationem despoliato praedicas,
longe aliam, inquam, praebes nunc atque olim, quom dabam,
aliam atque olim, quom inliciebas me ad te blande ac benedice.
tum mi aedes quoque arridebant, cum ad te veniebam, tuae;
me unice unum ex omnibus te atque illam amare aibas mihi;
ubi quid dederam, quasi columbae pulli in ore ambae meo
usque eratis, meo de studio studia erant vostra omnia,
usque adhaerebatis: quod ego iusseram, quod volueram
faciebatis, quod nolebam ac votueram, de industria
fugiebatis, neque conari id facere audebatis prius.
nunc neque quid velim neque nolim facitis magni, pessumae.

Clear.
Non tu scis? hic noster quaestus aucupi simillimust.
auceps quando concinnavit aream, offundit cibum;
aves adsuescunt: nécesse est facere sumptum qui quaerit lucrum;
saepe edunt: semel si sunt captae, rem solvont aucupi.
itidem hic apud nos: aedes nobis area est, auceps sum ego,
esca est meretrix, lectus inlex est, amatores aves;
bene salutando consuescunt, compellando blanditer,
osculando, oratione vinnula, venustula.
si papillam pertractavit, haud est ab re aúcupis;
savium si sumpsit, sumere eum licet sine retibus.

haecine te esse oblitum, in ludo qui fuisti tam diu?

Argyr.
Tua ista culpa est, quae discipulum semidoctum abs te amoves.

Clear.
Remeato audacter, mercedem sí eris nactus: nunc abi.

Argyr.
Mane, mane, audi. dic, quid me aequom censes pro illa tibi dare,
annum hunc ne cum quiquam alio sit?

Clear.
Tene? viginti minas;
atque ea lege: si alius ad me prius attulerit, tu vale.

A.
At ego est etiam prius quam abis quod volo loqui.

C.
Dic quod lubet.

A.
Non omnino iam perii, est relicuom quo peream magis.
habeo unde istuc tibi quod poscis dem; sed in leges meas
dabo, uti scire possis, perpetuom annum hunc mihi uti serviat
nec quemquam interea alium admittat prorsus quam me ad se virum.

Clear.
Quin, si tu voles, domi sérvi qui sunt castrabo viros.
postremo ut voles nos esse, syngraphum facito adferas;
ut voles, ut tibi lubebit, nobis legem imponito:
modo tecum una argentum adferto, facile patiar cetera.
portitorum símillumae sunt ianuae lenoniae:
si adfers, tum patent, si non est quod des, aedes non patent. —

Argyr.
Interii, si non invenio ego illas viginti minas,

et profecto, nisi illud perdo argentum, pereundum est mihi.
nunc pergam ad forum atque experiar opibus, omni copia,
supplicabo, exobsecrabo ut quemque amicum videro,
dignos indignos adire atque experiri certumst mihi,†
nam si mutuas non potero, certumst sumam faenore. —

ACT II.

Libanvs
Hercle vero, Libane, nunc te meliust expergiscier
atque argento comparando fingere fallaciam.
iam diu est factúm quom discesti ab ero atque abiisti ad forum,
igitur inveniundo argento ut fingeres fallaciam.
ibi tu ad hoc diei tempus dormitasti in otio.
quin tu abs te socordiam omnem reice et segnitiem amove
atque ad ingenium vetus versutum te recipis tuom.
serva erum, cave tú idem faxis alii quod servi solent,
quí ad eri fraudationem callidum ingenium gerunt.
unde sumam? quem intervortam? quo hanc celocem conferam?
impetritum, inauguratumst: quovis admittunt aves,
picus et cornix ab laeva, corvos parra ab dextera
consuadent; certum herclest vostram consequi sententiam.
sed quid hoc, quod picus ulmum tundit? non temerariumst.
certe hercle ego quantum ex augurio éius pici intellego,
aut mihi in mundo sunt virgae aut atriensi Saureae.
sed quid illúc, quod exanimatus currit huc Leonida?
metuo quom illic obscaevavit meae falsae fallaciae.

Leonida
Vbi ego nunc Libanum requiram aut familiarem filium,
ut ego illos lubentiores faciam quam Lubentiast?
maximam praedam et triumphum eis adfero adventu meo.
quando mecum pariter potant, pariter scortari solent,
hanc quidem, quam nactus, praedam pariter cum illis partiam.

Lib.

Illic homo aedis compilavit, more si fecit suo.
vae illi, qui tam indiligenter observavit ianuam.

Leon.
Aetatem velim servire, Libanum ut conveniam modo.

Lib.

Mea quidem hercle ópera liber numquam fies ocius.

Leon.
Etiam de tergo ducentas plagas praegnatis dabo.

Lib.

Largitur peculium, omnem in tergo thensaurum gerit.

Leon.
Nam si huic sése occasioni tempus supterduxerit,
numquam edepol quadrigis albis indipiscet postea;
erum in óbsidione linquet, inimicum animos auxerit.
sed si mecum occasionem opprimere hanc, quae obvenit, studet,
maximas opimitates, gaudio exfertissimas
suis eris ille una mecum pariet, gnatoque et patri,
adeo ut aetatem ambo ambobus nobis sint obnoxii,
nostro devincti beneficio.

Lib.

Vinctos nescio quos ait;
non placet: metuo, in commune ne quam fraudem frausus sit.

Leon.
Perii ego oppido, nisi Libanum invenio iam, ubiubi est gentium.

Lib.

Illic homó socium ad malam rem quaerit quem adiungat sibi.
non placet: pro monstro extemplo est, quando qui sudat tremit.

Leon.
Sed quid ego hic properans concesso pedibus, lingua largior?
quin ego hanc iubeo tacere, quae loquens lacerat diem?

Lib.

Edepol hominem ínfelicem, qui patronam comprimat.
nam si quid sceleste fecit, lingua pro illo perierat.

Leon.
Adproperabo, ne post tempus praedae praesidium parem.

Lib.

Quae illaec praeda est? ibo advorsum atque electabo, quidquid est.
iubeo te salvere voce summa, quo ad vires valent.

Leon.
Gymnasium flagri, salveto.

Lib.

Quid agis, custos carceris?

Leon.
O catenarum colone.

Lib.

O virgarum lascivia.

Leon.
Quot pondo ted esse censes nudum?

Lib.

Non edepol scio.

Leon.
Scibam ego te nescire, at pol ego, qui ted expendi, scio:
nudus vinctus centum pondo es, quando pendes per pedes.

Lib.

Quo argumento istuc?

Leon.
Ego dicam, quo argumento et quo modo.
ad pedes quando adligatumst aequom centumpondium,
ubi manus manicae complexae sunt atque adductae ad trabem,
nec dependes nec propendes — quin malus nequamque sis.

Lib.

Vae tibi.

Leon.
Hoc testamento Servitus legat tibi.

Lib.

Verbivelitationem fieri compendi volo.
Quid istud est negoti?

Leon.
Certum est credere.

Lib.

Audacter licet.

Leon.
Sis amanti subvenire familiari filio,
tantum adest boni improviso, verum commixtum malo:
omnes de nobis carnificum concelebrabuntur dies.
Libane, nunc audacia usust nobis inventa et dolis.
tantum facinus modo invéni ego, ut nos dicamur duo
omnium dignissumi esse, quo cruciatus confluant.

Lib.

Ergo mirabar quod dudum scapulae gestibant mihi,
hariolari quae occeperunt, sibi esse in mundo malum.
quidquid est, eloquere.

Leon.
Magna est praeda cum magno malo.

Lib.

Si quidem omnes coniurati cruciamenta conferant,
habeo opinor familiare tergum, ne quaeram foris.

Leon.
Si istam firmitudinem animi óptines, salvi sumus.

Lib.

Quin si tergo res solvenda est, rapere cupio publicum:
pernegabo atque obdurabo, periurabo denique.

Leon.
Em ista virtus est, quando usust qui malum fert fortiter;
fortiter malum qui patitur, idem post potitur bonum.

Lib.

Quin rem actutum edisseris? cupio malum nanciscier.

Leon.
Placide ergo unum quidquid rogita, ut adquiescam. non vides
me ex cursura anhelitum etiam ducere?

Lib.

Age, age, mansero
tuo arbitratu, vel adeo usque dum peris.

Leon.
Vbinam est erus?

Lib.

Maior apud forumst, minor hic est intus.

Leon.
Iam satis est mihi.

Lib.

Túm igitur tu dives es factus?

Leon.
Mitte ridicularia.

Lib.

Mitto. ... istuc quod adfers aures exspectant meae.

Le.

Animum adverte, ut aeque mecum haéc scias.

Li.

Taceo.

Le.

Beas.
meministin asinos Arcadicos mercatori Pellaeo
nostrum vendere atriensem?

Lib.

Memini. quid tum postea?

Leon.
Em ergo is argentum huc remisit, quod daretur Saureae
pró asinis. adulescens venit modo, qui id argentum attulit.

Lib.

Vbi is homost?

Leon.
Iam devorandum censes, si conspexeris?

Lib.

Ita enim vero. sed tamen, tu nempe eos asinos praedicas
vetulos, claudos, quibus subtritae ad femina iám erant ungulae?

Leon.
Ipsos, qui tibi subvectabant rure huc virgas ulmeas.

Lib.

Teneo, atque idem te hinc vexerunt vinctum rus.

Le.

Memor es probe.
verum in tonstrina ut sedebam, me infit percontarier,
ecquem filium Stratonis noverim Demaenetum.
dico me novisse extemplo et me eius servom praedico
esse, et aedis demonstravi nostras.

Lib.

Quid tum postea?

Leon.
Ait se ob asinos ferre argentum átriensi Saureae,
viginti minas, séd eum sese non nosse hominem qui siet,
ipsum vero se novisse callide Demaenetum.
quoniam ille elocutus haec sic —

Lib.

Quid tum?

Leon.
Ausculta ergo, scies.

extemplo facio facetum me atque magnificum virum,
dico med esse atriensem. sic hoc respondit mihi:
“ego pol Sauream non novi neque qua facie sit scio.
te non aequomst suscensere. sí erum vis Demaenetum,
quém ego novi, adduce: argentum non morabor quin feras.”
ego me dixi erum adducturum et me domi praesto fore;
ille in balineas iturust, inde huc veniet postea.
quid nunc consili captandum censes? dic.

Lib.

Em istuc ago,
quo modo argento intervortam et adventorem et Sauream.
iam hoc opus est † exasceatum; nam si ille argentum prius
hospes huc affert, continuo nos ambo exclusi sumus.
nam me hodie senex seduxit solum sorsum ab aedibus,
mihi tibique interminatust nos futuros ulmeos,
ní hodie Argyrippo éssent viginti argenti minae;
iussit vel nos atriensem vel nos uxorem suam
defraudare, dixit sese óperam promiscam dare.
nunc tu abi ad forum ad erum et narra haec ut nos acturi sumus:
te ex Leonida futurum esse atriensem Sauream,
dum argentum afferat mercator pró asinis.

Leon.
Faciam ut iubes.

Lib.

Ego illum interea hic oblectabo, prius si forte advenerit.

Leon.
Quid ais?

Lib.

Quid vis?

Le.

Pugno malam si tibi percussero,
mox cum Sauream imitabor, caveto ne suscenseas.

Lib.

Hercle vero tu cavebis ne me attingas, si sapis,
né hodie malo cum auspicio nomen commutaveris.

Leon.
Quaeso, aequo animo patitor.

L.
Patitor tú item, cum ego te referiam.

Leon.
Dico ut usust fieri.

Lib.

Dico hercle ego quoque ut facturus sum.

Leon.
Ne nega.

Lib.

Quin promitto, inquam, hostire contra ut merueris.

Leon.
Ego abeo, tu iam, scio, patiere. sed quis hic est? is est,
ille est ipsus. iam ego recurro húc. tu hunc interea hic tene.
volo seni narrare.

Lib.

Quin tuom officium facis ergo ac fugis?

Mercator
Vt démonstratae súnt mihi, hasce aédis esse opórtet,
Demaenetus ubi dicitur habitare. i, puere, pulta
atque atriensem Sauream, si est intus, evocato huc.

Lib.

Quis nostras sic frangit fores? ohe, inquam, si quid audis.

Merc.
Nemo etiam tetigit. sanun es?

Lib.

At censebam attigisse
propterea, huc quia habebas iter. nolo ego fores conservas
meas á te verberarier. sane ego sum amicus nostris.

Merc.
Pol haud periclum est, cardines ne foribus effringantur,
si istoc exemplo omnibus qui quaerunt respondebis.

Lib.

Ita haec morata est ianua: extemplo ianitorem
clamat, procul si quem videt ire ad se calcitronem.
sed quid venis? quid quaeritas?

Merc.
Demaenetum volebam.

Lib.

Si sit domi, dicam tibi.

Merc.
Quid eius atriensis?

Lib.

Nihilo mage intus est.

Merc.
Vbi est?

Lib.

Ad tonsorem ire dixit.

Merc.
Conveni. sed post non redit?

Lib.

Non edepol. quid volebas?

Merc.
Argenti viginti minas, si adesset, accepisset.

Lib.

Qui pro istuc?

Merc.
Asinos vendidit Pellaeo mercatori
mercatu.

Lib.

Scio. tu id nunc refers? iam hic credo eum adfuturum.

Merc.
Qua facie voster Saurea est? si is est, iam scire potero.

Lib.

Macilentis malis, rufulus aliquantum, ventriosus,
truculentis oculis, commoda statura, tristi fronte.

Merc.
Non potuit pictor rectius describere eius formam.

Lib.

Atque hercle ipsum adeo contuor, quassanti capite incedit.
quisque obviam huic occesserit irato, vapulabit.

Merc.
Siquidem hércle Aeacidinis minis animisque expletus incedit,
si med iratus tetigerit, iratus vapulabit.

Leonida
Quid hoc sít negoti, neminem meum dictum magni facere?
Libanum in tonstrinam ut iusseram venire, is nullus venit.
ne ille edepol tergo et cruribus consuluit haud decore.

Merc.
Nimis imperiosust.

Lib.

Vae mihi.

Leon.
Hodie salvere iussi
Libanum libertum? iam manu emíssu's?

Lib.

Obsecro te.

Leon.
Ne tu hercle cum magno malo mihi obviam occessisti.
cur non venisti, ut iusseram, in tonstrinam?

Lib.

Hic me moratust.

Leon.
Siquidem hércle nunc summum Iovem te dicas detinuisse
atque is precator adsiet, malam rem effugies numquam.
tu, verbero, imperium meum contempsisti?

Lib.

Perii, hospes.

Merc.
Quaeso hercle noli, Saurea, mea causa hunc verberare.

Leon.
Vtinam nunc stimulus in manu mihi sit.

Merc.
Quiesce quaeso.

Leon.
Qui latera conteram tua, quae occalluere plagis.
abscede ac sine me hunc perdere, qui semper me ira incendit,
cui numquam unam rem me licet semel praecipere furi,
quin centiens eadem imperem atque ogganniam, itaque iam hercle
clamore ac stomacho non queo labori suppeditare.
iussin, sceleste, ab ianua hoc stercus hinc auferri?
iussin columnis deici operas araneorum?
iussin in splendorem dari bullas has foribus nostris?
nihil est: tamquam si claudus sim, cum fustist ambulandum.
quia triduom hoc unum modo foro operam adsiduam dedo,
dum reperiam qui quaeritet argentum in faenus, hic vos
dormitis interea domi, atque erus in hara, haud aedibus, habitat.
em ergo hóc tibi.

Lib.

Hospes, te obsecro, defende.

Merc.

Saurea, oro,
mea causa ut mittás.

Leon.
Eho, ecquis pro vectura olivi
rem solvit?

Lib.

Solvit.

Leon.
Cui datumst?

Lib.

Sticho vicario ipsi
tuo.

Leon.
Váh, delenire apparas, scio mihi vicarium esse,
neque eo esse servom in aedibus eri quí sit pluris quam illest.
sed vina quaé heri vendidi vinario Exaerambo,
iam pró eis satis fecit Sticho?

Lib.

Fecisse satis opinor,
nam vidi huc ipsum adducere trapezitam Exaerambum.

Leon.
Sic dedero. prius quae credidi vix anno post exegi;
nunc satagit: adducit domum etiam ultro et scribit nummos.
Dromo mercedem rettulit?

Lib.

Dimidio minus opinor.

Leon.
Quid relicuom?

Lib.

Aibat reddere quom extemplo redditum esset;
nam retineri, ut quod sit sibi operis locatum efficeret.

Leon.
Scyphos quos utendos dedi Philodamo, rettulitne?

Lib.

Non etiam.

Leon.
Hem non? si velis da ... , commoda homini amico.

Merc.
Perii hercle, iam hic me abegerit suo odio.

Lib.

Heús iam satis tu.
audin quae loquitur?

Leon.
Audio et quiesco.

Merc.
Tandem, opinor,
conticuit. nunc adeam optimum est, prius quam incipit tinnire.
quam mox mi operam das?

Leon.
Ehem, óptume. quam dudum tu advenisti?
non hercle te provideram (quaeso, ne vitio vortas),
ita iracundia obstitit oculis.

Merc.
Non mirum factum est.
sed si domi est, Demaenetum volebam.

Leon.
Negat esse intus.
verum istuc argentum tamen mihi si vis denumerare,
repromittam istoc nomine solutam rem futuram.

Merc.
Sic potius, ut Demaeneto tibi ero praesente reddam.

Lib.

Erus istunc novit atque erum hic.

Merc.
Ero huic praesente reddam.

Lib.

Da modo meo periculo, rem salvam ego exhibebo;
nam si sciat noster senex fidem non esse huic habitam,
suscenseat, quoi ómnium rerum ipsus semper credit.

Leon.
Non magni pendo. ne duit, si non volt. sic sine astet.

Lib.

Da, inquam. vah, formido miser, ne hic me tibi arbitretur
suasisse, sibi ne crederes. da, quaeso, ac ne formida:
salvom hercle erit.

Merc.
Credam fore, dum quidem ipse in mánu habebo.
peregrinus ego sum, Sauream non novi.

Lib.

At nosce sane.

Merc.
Sit, non sit, non edepol scio. si is est, eum esse oportet.
ego certe me incerto scio hoc daturum nemini homini.

Leon.
Hercle istum di omnes perduint. verbo cave supplicassis.
ferox est viginti minas meas tractare sese.
nemo accipit, aufer te domum, abscede hinc, molestus ne sis.

Merc.
Nimis iracunde. non decet superbum esse hominem servom.

Leon.
Malo hercle iam magno tuo, ni isti nec recte dicis.

Lib.

Impure, nihili. non vides irasci?

Leon.
Perge porro.

Lib.

Flagitium hominis. da, óbsecro, argentum huic, ne male loquatur.

Merc.
Malum hercle vobis quaeritis.

Leon.
Crura hercle diffringentur,
ni istum impudicum percies.

Lib.

Perii hercle. age impudice,
sceleste, non audes mihi scelesto subvenire?

Leon.
Pergin precari pessimo?

Merc.
Quae res? tun libero homini
male servos loquere?

Leon.
Vapula.

Merc.
Id quidém tibi hercle fiet,
ut vapules, Demaenetum simul ac conspexero hodie.
in ius voco te.

Leon.
Non eo.

Merc.
Non is? memento.

Leon.
Memini.

Merc.
Dabitur pol supplicium mihi de tergo vostro.

Leon.
Vae te.
tibi quidem supplicium, carnufex, de nobis detur?†

Merc.
Atque etiam
pro dictis vostris maledicis poenae pendentur mi hodie.

Leon.
Quid, verbero? ain tu, furcifer? erum nos fugitare censes?
ei nunciam ad erum, quo vocas, iam dudum quo volebas.

Merc.
Nunc demum? tamen numquam hinc feres argenti nummum, nisi me
dare iusserit Demaenetus.

Leon.
Ita facito, age ambula ergo.
tu contumeliam alteri facias, tibi non dicatur?
tam ego homo sum quam tu.

Me.
Scilicet. ita res est.

Le.

Sequere hac ergo.
praefiscini hoc nunc dixerim: nemo etiam me accusavit
merito meo, neque me alter est Athenis hodie quisquam,
cui credi recte aeque putent.

Merc.
Fortassis. sed tamen me
numquam hodie induces, ut tibi credam hoc argentum ignoto.
lupus est homo homini, non homo, quom qualis sit non novit.

Leon.
Iam nunc secunda mihi facis. scibam huic te capitulo hodie
facturum satis pro iniuria; quamquam ego sum sordidatus,
frugi tamen sum, nec potest peculium enumerari.

Merc.
Fortasse.

Leon.
Etiam † nunc dico Periphanes Rhodo mercator dives
absente ero solus mihi talentum argenti soli
adnumeravit et mihi crédidit, nequest deceptus in eo.

Merc.
Fortasse.

Leon.
Atque etiam tu quoque ipse, si esses percontatus
me ex aliis, scio pol crederes nunc quod fers.

Merc.
Haud negassim. —

ACT III.

Cleareta
Néqueon ego ted interdictis facere mansuetem meis?
an ita tu es animata, ut qui matris éxpers imperio sies?

Philaenivm
Vbi piem Pietatem, si istoc more moratam tibi
postulem placere, mater, mihi quo pacto praecipis?

Clear.
An decorum est adversari meis te praeceptis?

Phil.
Quid est?

Clear.
Hocine est pietatem colere, matris impérium minuere?

Phil.
Neque quae recte faciunt culpo neque quae delinquont amo.

Clear.
Satis dicacula es amatrix.

Phil.
Mater, is quaestus mihi est:
lingua poscit, corpus quaerit; animus orat, res monet.

Clear.
Ego te volui castigare, tu mi accusatrix ades.

Phil.
Neque edepol te accuso neque id me facere fas existimo.
verum ego meas queror fortunas, cum illo quém amo prohibeor.

Clear.
Ecqua pars orationis de die dabitur mihi?

Phil.
Et meam partem loquendi ét tuam trado tibi;
ad loquendum atque ad tacendum tute habeas portisculum.
quin pol si reposivi remum, sola ego in casteria
ubi quiesco, omnis familiae causa consistit tibi.

Clear.
Quid ais tu, quam ego unam vidi mulierem audacissimam?
quotiens te votui Argyrippum filium Demaeneti
compellare aut contrectare, conloquive aut contui?
quid dedit? quid ad nos iussit deportari? an tu tibi
verba blanda esse aurum rere, dicta docta pro datis?
ultro amas, ultro expetessis, ultro ad te accersi iubes.
illos qui dant, eos derides; qui deludunt, deperis.
an te id exspectare oportet, si quis promittat tibi
te facturum divitem, si moriatur mater sua?
†ecastor nobis periclum magnum et familiae portenditur,
dum eius exspectamus mortem, ne nos moriamur fame.
nunc adeo nisi mi huc argenti ádfert viginti minas,
ne ille ecastor hinc trudetur largus lacrumarum foras.
hic dies summust ... apud me inópiae excusatio.

Phil.
Patiar, si cibo carere me iubes, mater mea.

Clear.
Non voto téd amare qui dant quoia amentur gratia.

Phil.
Quid si hic animus occupatust, mater, quid faciam? mone.

C.
Em,
meum caput contemples, si quidem ex re consultas tua.

Phil.
Etiam ópilio qui pascit, mater, alienas ovis,
aliquam habet peculiarem, qui spem soletur suam.
sine me amare unum Argyrippum ánimi causa, quem volo.

Clear.
Intro abi, nam te quidem edepol nihil est impudentius.

Phil.
Audientem dicto, mater, produxisti filiam.

Libanvs
Perfídiae laudes grátiasque habémus merito mágnas,
quom nostris sycophantiis, dolis astutiisque,
scapularum confidentia, virtute ulmorum freti
qui advorsum stimulos, lamminas, crucesque compedesque,
nervos, catenas, carceres, numellas, pedicas, boias
†indoctoresque acerrumos gnarosque nostri tergi,
qui saepe ante in nostras scapulas cicatrices indiderunt

...

eae núnc legiones, copiae exercitusque eorum
vi pugnando periuriis nostris fugae potiti.
id virtute huius † collegae meaque comitate
factumst. qui me vir fortior ad sufferundas plagas?

Leon.
Edepol virtutes qui tuas non possis conlaudare
sic ut ego possim, quae domi duellique male fecisti.
ne illa edepol pro merito tuo memorari multa possunt:
ubi fidentem fraudaveris, ubi ero infidelis fueris,
ubi verbis conceptis sciens libenter periuraris,
ubi parietes perfoderis, in furto ubi sis prehensus,
ubi saepe causam dixeris pendens adversus octo
artutos, audacis viros, valentis virgatores.

Lib.

Fateor profecto ut praedicas, Leonida, esse vera;
verum edepol ne etiam túa quoque malefacta iterari multa
et vero possunt: ubi sciens fideli infidus fueris,
ubi prensus in furto sies manifesto et verberatus,
ubi periuraris, ubi sacro manus sis admolitus,
ubi eris damno, molestiae et dedecori saepe fueris,
ubi creditum quod sit tibi datum esse pernegaris,
ubi amicae quám amico tuo fueris magis fidelis,
ubi saepe ad languorem tua duritia dederis octo
validos lictores, ulmeis adfectos lentis virgis.
num male relata est gratia, ut collegam collaudavi?

Leon.
Vt meque teque maxime atque ingenio nostro decuit.

Lib.

Iam omitte ista atque hoc quod rogo responde.

Leon.
Rogita quod vis.

Lib.

Argenti vinginti minas habesne?

Leon.
Hariolare.
edepol senem Demaenetum lepidum fuisse nobis:
ut adsimulabat Sauream med esse quam facete!
nimis aegre risum contini, ubi hospitem inclamavit,
quod se absente mihi fidem habere noluisset.
ut memoriter me Sauream vocabat atriensem!

Li.

Mane dúm.

Le.

Quid est?

Li.

Philaenium estne haéc quae intus exit
atque Argyrippus una?

Leon.
Opprime os, is est. subauscultemus.

Lib.

Lacrumantem lacinia tenet lacrumans. quidnam esse dicam?
taciti auscultemus.

Leon.
Attatae, modo hercle in mentem venit,
nimis véllem habere perticam.

Lib.

Quoi rei?

Leon.
Qui verberarem
asinos, si forte occeperint clamare hinc ex crumina.

Argyrippvs
Cur me retentas?

Philaenivm
Quia tui amans abeuntis egeo.

Arg.
Vale.

Phil.

Aliquanto ámplius valerem, si hic maneres.

Arg.
Salve.

Phil.
Salvere me iubes, quoi tu abiens offers morbum.

Arg.
Mater supremam mihi tua dixit, domum ire iussit.

Phil.
Acerbum funus filiae faciet, si te carendum est.

Lib.

Homo hercle hinc exclusust foras.

Leon.
Ita res est.

A.
Mitte quaeso.

Phil.
Quo nunc abis? quin tu hic manes?

Arg.
Nox, si voles, manebo.

Lib.

Audin hunc opera ut largus est nocturna? nunc enim esse
negotiosum interdius videlicet Solonem,
leges ut conscribat, quibus se populus teneat. gerrae!
qui sese parere apparent huius légibus, profecto
numquam bonae frugi sient, dies noctesque potent.

Leon.

Ne iste hercle ab ista non pedem discedat, si licessit,
qui nunc festinat atque ab hac minatur sese abire.

Lib.

Sermoni iam finem face tuo, huius sermonem accipiam.

Arg.
Vale.

Phil.
Quo properas?

Arg.
Bene vale, apud Orcum te videbo.
nam equidem me iam quantum potest a vita abiudicabo.

Phil.
Cur tu, obsecro, immerito meo me morti dedere optas?

Arg.
Ego te? quam si intellegam deficere vita, iam ipse
vitam meam tibi largiar et de mea ad tuam addam.

Phil.
Cur ergo minitaris mihi, te vitam esse amissurum?
nam quid me facturam putas, si istuc quod dicis faxis?
mihi certum est facere in me omnia eadem quae tu in te faxis.

Arg.
Oh melle dulci dulcior tu es.

Phil.
Certe enim tú vita es mi.
complectere.

Arg.
Facio lubens.

Phil.
Vtinam sic efferamur.

Leon.
O Libane, uti miser est homo qui amat.

Lib.

Immo hercle vero,
qui pendet multo est miserior.

Leon.
Scio qui periclum feci.
circum sistamus, alter hinc, hinc alter appellemus.
ere, salve. sed num fumus est haec mulier quam amplexare?

Arg.
Quidum?

Leon.
Quia oculi sunt tibi lacrumantes, eo rogavi.

Arg.
Patronus qui vobis fuit futurus, perdidistis.

Leon.
Equidem hercle nullum perdidi, ideo quia numquam ullum habui.

Lib.

Philaenium, salve.

Phil.
Dabunt di quae velitis vobis.

Lib.

Noctem tuam et vini cadum velim, si optata fiant.

Arg.
Verbum cave fáxis, verbero.

Lib.

Tibi equidem, non mihi opto.

Arg.
Tum tu igitur loquere quod lubet.

Lib.

Hunc hercle verberare.

Leon.
Quisnam istuc adcredat tibi, cinaede calamistrate?
tun verberes, qui pro cibo habeas te verberari?

Arg.
Vt vostrae fortunae meis praecedunt, Libane, longe,
qui hódie numquam ad vesperum vivam.

Lib.

Quapropter, quaeso?

A.
Quia ego hanc amó et haec me amat, huic quod dem nusquam quicquam est,
hinc med amantem ex aedibus eiecit huius mater.
argenti viginti minae me ad mórtem appulerunt,
quas hodie aduléscens Diabolus ipsi daturus dixit,
ut hanc ne quoquam mitteret nisi ad se hunc annum totum.
videtin viginti minae quid pollent quidve possunt?
ille qui íllas perdit salvos est, ego qui non perdo pereo.

Lib.

Iam dedit argentum?

Arg.
Non dedit.

Li.

Bono animo es, ne formida.

Leon.
Secede huc, Libane, te volo.

Lib.

Si quid vis.

Arg.
Obsecro vos,
eadem istac opera suaviust complexos fabulari.

Lib.

Non omnia eadem aeque omnibus, ere, suavia esse scito:
vobis est suave amantibus complexos fabulari,
ego complexum huius nil moror, meum autem hic aspernatur.
proinde istud facias ipse quod faciamus nobis suades.

Arg.
Ego vero, et quidem edepol lubens. interea, si videtur,
concedite istuc.

Leon.
Vin erum deludi?

Lib.

Dignust sane.

Leon.
Vin faciam ut te Philaenium praesente hoc amplexetur?

Lib.

Cupio hercle.

Leon.
Sequere hac.

A.
Ecquid est salutis? satis locuti.

Leon.
Auscultate atque operam date et mea dicta devorate.
primum omnium servos tuos nos esse non negamus;
sed tibi si viginti minae argenti proferentur,
quo nos vocabis nomine?

Arg.
Libertos.

Leon.
Non patronos?

Arg.
Id potius.

Leon.
Viginti minae hic insunt in crumina,
has ego, si vis, tibi dabo.

Arg.
Di te servassint semper,
custos erilis, decus popli, thensaurus copiarum,
salus interioris † corporis amorisque imperator.
hic pone, hic istam colloca cruminam in collo plane.

Leon.
Nolo ego te, quí erus sis, mihi onus istuc sustinere.

Arg.
Quin tu labore liberas te atque istam imponis in me?

Leon.
Ego baiulabo, tu, ut decet dominum, ante me ito inanis.

Arg.
Quid nunc?

Leon.
Quid est?

Arg.
Quin tradis huc cruminam pressatum umerum?

Leon.
Hanc, cui daturu's hanc, iube petere atque orare mecum.
nam istuc proclive est, quo iubes me plane collocare.

Phil.
Da, meus ocellus, mea rosa, mi ánime, mea voluptas,
Leonida, argentum mihi, ne nos diiunge amantis.

Leon.
Dic me igitur tuom passerculum, gallinam, coturnicem,
agnellum, haedillum me tuom dic esse vel vitellum,
prehende auriculis, compara labella cum labellis.

Arg.
Ten osculetur, verbero?

Leon.
Quam vero indignum visum est?
at qui pol hodie non feres, ni genua confricantur.

Arg.
Quidvis egestas imperat: fricentur. dan quod oro?

Phil.
Age, mi Leonida, obsecro, fer amanti ero salutem,
redime istoc benefició te ab hoc, et tibi eme hunc isto argento.

Leon.
Nimis bélla es atque amabilis, et si hoc meum esset, hodie
numquam me orares quin darem: illum te orare meliust,
illic hánc mihi servandam dedit. ei sane bella belle.
cape hoc sis, Libane.

Arg.
Furcifer, etiam me delusisti?

Leon.
Numquam hercle facerem, genua ni tam nequiter fricares.
age sis tu in partem nunciam hunc delude atque amplexare hanc.

Lib.

Taceas, me spectes.

Arg.
Quin ad hunc, Philaenium, adgredimur,
virum quidem pol optimum et non similem furis huius?

Lib.

Inambulandum est: nunc mihi vicissim supplicabunt.

Arg.
Quaeso hercle, Libane, sis erum tuis factis sospitari,
da mi istas viginti minas. vides me amantem egere.

Lib.

Videbitur. factum volo. redito huc conticinno.
nunc istanc tantisper iube petere atque orare mecum.

Phil.

Amandone exorarier vis ted an osculando?

Lib.

Enim véro utrumque.

P.
Ergo, obsecro, ét tu utrumque nostrum serva.

Arg.
O Libane, mi patrone, mi trade istuc. magis decorumst
libertum potius quam patronum onus in via portare.

Phil.
Mi Libane, ocellus aureus, donum decusque amoris,
amabo, faciam quod voles, da istuc argentum nobis.

Lib.

Dic igitur med aniticulam, columbam vel catellum,
hirundinem, monerulam, passerculum putillum,
fac proserpentem bestiam me, duplicem ut habeam linguam,
circumda torquem brachiis, meum collum circumplecte.

Arg.
Ten complectatur, carnufex?

Lib.

Quam vero indignus videor?
ne istuc nequiquam dixeris tam indignum dictum in me,
vehes pól hodie me, si quidem hoc argentum ferre speres.

Arg.
Ten ego veham?

Lib.

Tun hoc feras argentum áliter a me?

Arg.
Perii hercle. si verum quidem et decorum erum vehere servom,
inscende.

Lib.

Sic isti solent superbi subdomari.
asta igitur, ut consuetus es puer olim. scin ut dicam?
em sic. abi, laúdo, nec te equo magis est equos ullus sapiens.

Arg.
Inscende actutum.

Lib.

Ego fecero. hem quid istúc est? ut tu incedis?
demam hercle iam de hórdeo, tolutim ni badizas.

Arg.
Amabo, Libane, iam sat est.

Lib.

Numquam hercle hodie exorabis.
nam iam calcari quadrupedo agitabo advorsum clivom,
postidea ad pistores dabo, ut ibí cruciere currens.
asta ut descendam nunciam in proclivi, quamquam nequam es.

Arg.
Quid nunc, amabo? quoniam, ut est libitum, nos delusistis,
datisne argentum?

Lib.

Si quidem mihi statuam et aram statuis
atque ut deo mi hic immolas bovem: nam ego tibi Salus sum.

Leon.
Etiam tu, ere, istunc amoves abs te atque † ipse me adgredere

atque illa, sibi quae hic iusserat, mihi statuis supplicasque?

Arg.
Quem te autem divom nominem?

Le.

Fortunam, atque Obsequentem.

Arg.
Iam istoc es melior.

Lib.

An quid est homini Salute melius?

Arg.
Licet laúdem Fortunam, tamen ut ne Salutem culpem.

Phil.
Ecastor ambae sunt bonae.

Arg.
Sciam ubi boni quid dederint.

Leon.
Opta id quod ut cóntingat tibi vis.

Arg.
Quid si optaro?

Le.

Eveniet.

Arg.
Opto annum hunc perpetuom mihi huius operas.

Leon.

Impetrasti.

Arg.
Ain vero?

Leon.
Certe inquam.

Li.

Ad me adi vicissim atque experire.
exopta id quod vis maxime tibi evenire: fiet.

Arg.
Quid ego aliud exoptem amplius nisi illud cuius inópiast,
viginti argenti commodas minas, huius quas dem matri.

Lib.

Dabuntur, animo sis bono face, exoptata optingent.

Arg.
Vt consuevere, homines Salus frustratur et Fortuna.

Leon.
Ego caput huic argento fui hodie reperiundo.

Lib.

Ego pes fui.

Arg.
Quin nec caput nec pes sermoni apparet.
nec quid dicatis scire nec me cur ludatis possum.

Lib.

Satis iám delusum censeo. nunc rém ut est eloquamur.
animum, Argyrippe, advorte sis. pater nos ferre hoc iussit

argentum ad ted.

Arg.
Vt temperi opportuneque attulistis.

Lib.

Hic inerunt viginti minae bonae, mala opera partae;
has tibi nos pactis legibus dare iussit.

Arg.
Quid id est, quaeso?

Lib.

Noctem huius et cénam sibi ut dares.

Arg.
Iube advenire quaeso:
meritissimo eius quae volet faciemus, qui hosce amores
nostros dispulsos compulit.

Leon.
Patierin, Argyrippe,
patrem hanc amplexari tuom?

Arg.
Haec faciet facile ut patiar.
Leonida, curre obsecro, patrem huc orato ut veniat.

Leon.
Iam dudum est intus.

Arg.
Hac quidem non venit.

Le.

Angiporto

illac per hortum circum iit clam, ne quis se videret
huc ire familiarium: ne uxor resciscat metuit.
de argento si mater tua sciát ut sit factum —

Arg.
Heia,
bene dicite.

Lib.

Ite intro cito.

Arg.
Valete. —

Leon.
Et vos amate. —

ACT IV.

Diabolvs
Agedum istum ostende quem conscripsti syngraphum
inter me et amicam et lenam. leges pellege.
nam tu poeta es prorsus ad eam rem unicus.

Parasitvs
Horrescet faxo lena, leges cum audiet.

Diab.

Age quaeso mi hercle translege.

Par.
Audin?

Diab.

Audio.

Par.
“Diabolus Glauci filius Clearetae
lenae dedit dóno argenti viginti minas,
Philaenium ut secum esset noctes et dies
hunc annum totum.”

Diab.

Neque cum quiquam alio quidem.

Par.
Addone?

Diab.

Ádde, et scribas víde plane et probe.

Par.
“Alienum hóminem intro mittat neminem.
quod illa aút amicum aút patronum nominet,
aut quód illa amicae ... amatorem praedicet,
fores occlusae ómnibus sint nisi tibi.
in foribus scribat occupatam ésse se.
aut quod illa dicat peregre allatam epistulam,
ne epistula quidem ulla sit in aedibus
nec cerata adeo tabula; et si qua inutilis
pictura sit, eam vendat: ni in quadriduo
abalienarit, quo abs te argentum acceperit,
tuos arbitratus sit, comburas, si velis,
ne illi sit cera, ubi facere possit litteras.
vocet convivam neminem illa, tu voces;
ad eorum ne quem óculos adiciat suos.
si quem alium aspexit, caeca continuo siet.
tecum una potet, aeque pocla potitet:
abs ted accipiat, tibi propinet, tu bibas,
ne illa minus aut plus quam tu sapiat.”

Diab.

Satis placet.

Par.
“Suspiciones omnes ab se segreget.
neque illaec ulli pede pedém homini premat,
cum surgat, neque cum in lectum inscendat proximum,
neque cum descendat inde, det cuiquam manum:
spectandum ne cui ánulum det neque roget.
talos ne cuiquam hómini admoveat nisi tibi.
cum iaciat, ‘te’ ne dicat: nomen nominet.
deam invocet sibi quam libebit propitiam,
deum nullum; si magis religiosa fuerit,
tibi dicat: tu pro illa ores ut sit propitius.
neque illa ulli homini nutet, nictet, annuat.
post, si lucerna exstincta sit, ne quid sui

membri commoveat quicquam in tenebris.”

Diab.

Optumest.
ita scilicet facturam. verum in cubiculo —
deme istuc — equidem illam moveri gestio.
nolo illam habere causam et votitam dicere.

Par.
Scio, cáptiones metuis.

Diab.

Verum.

Par.
Ergo ut iubes
tollam.

Diab.

Quid ni?

Par.
Audi relicua.

Diab.

Loquere, audio.

Par.
“Neque ullum verbum faciat perplexabile,
neque ulla lingua sciat loqui nisi Attica.
forte sí tussire occepsit, ne sic tussiat,
ut cuiquam linguam in tussiendo proserat.
quod illa aútem simulet, quasi gravedo profluat,
hoc ne sic faciat: tu labellum abstergeas
potius quam cuiquam savium faciat palam.

nec mater lena ad vinum accedat interim,
nec ulli verbo male dicat. si dixerit,
haec multa ei esto, vino viginti dies
ut careat."

Diab.

Pulchre scripsti. scitum syngraphum.

Par.
"Tum si coronas, serta, unguenta iusserit
ancillam ferre Veneri aút Cupidini,
tuos servos servet, Venerine eas det an viro.
si forte pure velle habere dixerit,
tot noctes reddat spurcas quot pure habuerit."
haec sunt non nugae, non enim mortualia.

Diab.

Placent profecto leges. sequere intro. —

Par.
Sequor. —

Diab.

Sequere hac. egone haec patiar aut taceam? emori
me malim, quam haec non eius uxori indicem.
ain tu? ápud amicam munus adulescentuli
fungare, uxori excuses te et dicas senem?
praeripias scortum amanti atque argentum obicias
lenae? suppiles clam domi uxorem tuam?
suspendam potius me, quam tu haec tacita auferas.
iam quidem hercle ad illam hinc ibo, quam tu propediem,
nisi quídem illa ante occupassit te, effliges scio,
luxuriae sumptus suppeditare ut possies.

Par.

Ego sic faciundum censeo: me honestiust,
quam te palam hanc rem facere, ne illa existimet
amoris causa percitum id fecisse te
magis quám sua caúsa.

Diab.

At pol qui dixti rectius.
tu ergo fac ut illi turbas lites concias;
cum suo sibí gnato unam ad amicam de die
potare, illam expilare narra.

Par.
Ne mone,
ego istud curabo. —

Diab.

At ego te opperiar domi. —

ACT V.

Argyrippvs
Age decumbamus sis, pater.

Demaenetvs
Vt iusseris,
mi gnate, ita fiet.

Arg.
Pueri, mensam adponite.

Dem.
Numquídnam tibi moléstumst, gnate mí, si haec nunc mecum áccubat?

Arg.
Pietas, pater, oculis dolorem prohibet. quamquam ego istánc amo,
possum equidem inducere animum, ne aegre patiar quia tecum accubat.

Dem.
Decet verecundum esse adulescentem, Argyrippe.

Arg.
Edepol, pater,
merito tuo facere possum.

Dem.
Age ergo, hoc agitemus convivium
vino ut sermone suavi. nolo ego metui, amari mavolo,
mi gnate, me abs te.

Arg.
Pol ego utrumque facio, ut aequom est filium.

Dem.

Credam istuc, si esse te hilarum videro.

A.
An tu me tristem putas?

D.
Putem ego, quem videam aeque esse maestum ut quasi dies si dicta sit?

Arg.
Ne dixis istuc.

Dem.
Ne sic fueris: ilico ego non dixero.

Arg.
Em aspecta: rideo.

Dem.
Vtinam male qui mihi volunt sic rideant.

Arg.
Scio equidem quam ob rem me, pater, tu tristem credas nunc tibi:
quia istaéc est tecum. atque ego quidem hercle ut verum tibi dicam, pater,
ea res me male habet; at non eo, quia tibi non cupiam quae velis;
verum istam amo. aliam tecum esse equidem facile possum perpeti.

D.
At ego hanc volo.

A.
Ergo sunt quae exoptas: mihi quae ego exoptem volo.

Dem.
Vnum hunc diem perpetere, quoniam tibi potestatem dedi,
cum hac annum ut esses, atque amanti argenti feci copiam.

A.
Em istoc me facto tibi devinxti.

D.
Quin te ergo hilarum das mihi?

Artemona
Áin tu meum virum híc potare, óbsecro, cum fílio
et ad amicam detulisse argenti viginti minas
meoque filio sciente id facere flagitium patrem?

Parasitvs
Neque divini neque mi humani posthac quicquam accreduas,
Artemona, si huius rei mé mendacem inveneris.

Art.
At scelesta ego praeter alios meum virum † frugi rata,
siccum, frugi, continentem, amantem uxoris maxume.

Par.
At nunc dehinc scito illum ante omnes minimi mortalem preti,
madidum, nihili, incontinentem atque osorem uxoris suae.

Art.
Pol ni istaec vera essent, numquam faceret ea quae nunc facit.

Par.
Ego quoque hercle illum antehac hominem semper sum frugi ratus,
verum hoc facto sese ostendit, qui quidem cum filio
potet una atque una amicam ductet, decrepitus senex.

Art.
Hoc ecastor est quod ille it ad cenam cottidie.
ait sese ire ad Archidemum, Chaeream, Chaerestratum,
Cliniam, Chremem, Cratinum, Diniam, Demosthenem:
is apud scortum corruptelae est liberis, lustris studet.

Par.

Quin tu illum iubes ancillas rapere sublimen domum?

Art.
Tace modo. ne ego illum ecastor miserum habebo.

P.
Ego istúc scio,
ita fore illi dum quidem cum íllo nupta eris.

Art.
Ego censeo.
†eum etiam hominem in senatu dare operam aut clientibus,
ibi labore delassatum noctem totam stertere:
ille operé foris faciendo lassus noctu ad me advenit;
fundum alienum arat, incultum familiarem deserit.
is etiam corruptus porro suom corrumpit filium.

Par.
Sequere hac me modó, iam faxo ipsum hominem manifesto
opprimas.

Art.
Nihil ecastor est quod facere mavelim.

P.
Mane dum.

A.
Quid est?

Par.
Possis, si forte accubantem tuom virum conspexeris
cum corona amplexum amicam, si videas, cognoscere?

A.
Possum ecastor.

P.

Em tibi hominem.

A.
Perii.

P.
Paulisper mane.
aucupemus ex insidiis clanculum quam rem gerant.

Arg.
Quid modi, pater, amplexando facies?

Dem.
Fateor, gnate mi —

Arg.
Quid fatere?

Dem.
Me ex amore húius corruptum oppido.

Par.
Audin quid ait?

Art.
Audio.

Dem.
Egon ut non domo uxori meae
subripiam in deliciis pallam quam hábet, atque ad te deferam,
non edepol conduci possum vita uxoris annua.

Par.
Censen tu illum hodié primum ire ádsuetum esse in ganeum?

Art.
Ille ecastor suppilabat me, quod ancillas meas
suspicabar atque insontis miseras cruciabam.

Arg.
Pater,
iube dari vinum; iam dudum factum est cum primum bibi.

Dem.
Da, puere, ab summo. áge tu interibi ab infimo da savium.

Art.
Perii misera, ut osculatur carnufex, capuli decus.

Dem.
Edepol animam suaviorem aliquanto quam uxoris meae.

Phil.
Dic amabo, an fetet anima úxoris tuae?

Dem.

Nauteam
bibere malim, si necessum sit, quam illam oscularier.

Art.
Ain tandem? edepol ne tu istuc cum malo magno tuo
Dixisti in me. sine, revenias modo domum, faxo ut scias
quid pericli sit dotatae uxori vitium dicere.

Phil.
Miser ecastor es.

Art.
Ecastor dignus est.

Arg.
Quid ais, pater?
ecquid matrem amas?

Dem.
Egone illam? nunc amo, quia non adest.

Arg.
Quid cum adest?

D.
Periisse cupio.

P.
Amat homo hic te, ut praedicat.

Art.
Ne illa ecastor faenerato funditat: nam si domum
redierit hodie, osculando ego ulciscar potissimum.

Arg.
Iace, pater, talos, ut porro nos iaciamus.

Dem.
Maxime.
te, Philaenium, mihi atque uxoris mortem. hoc Venerium est.
pueri, plaudite et mi ob iactum cantharo mulsum date.

Art.
Non queo durare.

Par.
Si non didicisti fulloniam,
non mirandum est. ... in oculos invadi optumum est.

Art.
Ego pol vivam et tu istaec hodie cum tuo magno malo
invocavisti.

Par.
Ecquis currit pollictorem accersere?

Arg.
Mater, salve.

Art.
Sat salutis.

Par.
Mortuost Demaenetus.
tempus est subducere hinc me; pulchre hoc gliscit proelium.
ibo ad Diabolum, mandata dicam facta ut voluerit,
atque interea ut decumbamus suadebo, hi dum litigant.
poste demum huc cras adducam ad lenam, ut viginti minas
ei det, in partem hac amanti ut liceat ei potirier.
Argyrippus exorari spero poterit, ut sinat
sese alternas cum illo noctes hac frui. nam ni impetro,
regem perdidi: ex amore tantum est homini incendium. —

Art.
Quid tibi hunc receptio ad te est meum virum?

Phil.
Pol me quidem
miseram odio énicavit.

Art.
Surge, amator, i domum.

Dem.
Nullus sum.

Art.
Immo es, ne nega, omnium unus pol nequissimus.
at etiam cubat cuculus. surge, amator, i domum.

Dem.
Vae mihi.

Art.
Vera hariolare. surge, amator, i domum.

Dem.

Abscede ergo paululum istuc.

Art.
Surge, amator, i domum.

Dem.
Iam obsecro, uxor.

Art.
Nunc uxorem me esse meministi tuam?
modo, cum dicta in me ingerebas, odium, non uxor eram.

Dem.
Totus perii.

Art.
Quid tandem? anima fetetne uxoris tuae?

Dem.
Murram olet.

Art.
Iam subrupuisti pallam, quam scorto dares?

Phil.
Ecastor qui subrupturum pallam promisit tibi.

Dem.
Non taces?

Arg.
Ego dissuadebam, mater.

Art.
Bellum filium.
istoscine patrem aequom est mores liberis largirier?
nilne te pudet?

Dem.

Pol, si aliud nil sit, tui me, uxor, pudet.

Art.
Cano capite te cuculum uxor ex lustris rapit.

Dem.
Non licet manere (cena coquitur) dum cenem modo?

Art.
Ecastor cenabis hodie, ut dignus es, magnum malum.

Dem.
Male cubandum est: iudicatum me uxor abducit domum.

Arg.
Dicebam, pater, tibi, ne matri consuleres male.

Phil.
De palla memento, amabo.

Dem.
Iuben hanc hinc abscedere?

Art.
I domum.

Phil.
Da savium etiam prius quam abis.

Dem.
I in crucem.

Phil.
Immo intro potius. sequere hac me, mí anime.

Arg.
Ego vero sequor.

Grex

Hic senex si quid clam uxorem suo animo fecit volup,
neque novom neque mirum fecit nec secus quam alii solent;
nec quisquam est tam ingenio duro nec tam firmo pectore,
quin ubi quicque occasionis sit sibi faciat bene.
nunc si voltis deprecari huic seni ne vapulet,
remur impetrari posse, plausum si clarum datis.

AULULARIA

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PROLOGVS

Lar familiaris
Ne quis miretur qui sim, paucis eloquar.
ego Lar sum familiaris ex hac familia
unde exeuntem me aspexistis. hanc domum
iam multos annos est cum possideo et colo
patri avoque iam huius qui nunc hic habet.
sed mí avos huius obsecrans concredidit
thensaurum aúri clam omnis: in medio foco
defodit, venerans mé ut id servarem sibi.
is quoniam moritur (ita avido ingenio fuit),
numquam indicare id filio voluit suo,
inopemque optavit potius eum relinquere,
quam eum thensaurum commonstraret filio;
agri reliquit ei non magnum modum,
quo cum labore magno et misere viveret.
ubi is óbiit mortem qui mihi id aurum credidit,
coepi observare, ecqui maiorem filius
mihi honorem haberet quam eius habuisset pater.
atque ille vero minus minusque impendio
curare mínusque me impertire honoribus.
item a me contra factum est, nam item obiit diem.
is ex se húnc reliquit qui hic nunc habitat filium
pariter moratum ut pater avosque huius fuit.
huic filia una est. ea mihi cottidie
aut ture aut vino aut aliqui semper supplicat,
dat mihi coronas. eius honoris gratia
feci, thensaurum ut hic reperiret Euclio,
quo illam facilius nuptum, si vellet, daret.
nam eam compressit de summo adulescens loco.
is scit adulescens quae sit quam compresserit,
illa illum nescit, neque compressam autem pater.
eam ego hódie faciam ut hic senex de proxumo
sibi uxórem poscat. id ea faciam gratia,
quo ille eam facilius ducat qui compresserat.

et hic qui poscet eam sibi uxorem senex,
is adulescentis illius est avonculus,
qui illam stupravit noctu, Cereris vigiliis.
sed hic senex iam clamat intus ut solet.
anum foras extrudit, ne sit conscia.
credo aurum inspicere volt, ne subreptum siet.

ACT I.

Evclio
Exi, ínquam. age exi. exeúndum herclé tibi hinc est foras,
circumspectatrix cum oculis emissiciis.

Staphyla
Nam cur me miseram verberas?

Evcl.

Vt misera sis
atque ut te dignam mala malam aetatem exigas.

Staph.
Nam qua me nunc causa extrusisti ex aedibus?

Evcl.

Tibi egó rationem reddam, stimulorum seges?
illuc regredere ab ostio. illuc sis vide,
ut incédit. at scin quo modo tibi res se habet?
si hercle hodie fustem cepero aut stimulum in manum,
testudineum istum tibi ego grandibo gradum.

Staph.
Vtinam me divi adaxint ad suspendium
potius quidem quam hoc pacto apud te serviam.

Evcl.

At ut scelesta sola secum murmurat.
oculos hercle égo istos, improba, ecfodiam tibi,
ne me observare possis quid rerum geram.
abscede etiam nunc — etiam nunc — etiam — ohe,
istic astato. si hercle tu ex istoc loco
digitum transvorsum aut unguem latum excesseris

aut si respexis, donicum ego te iussero,
continuo hercle ego te dedam discipulam cruci.
scelestiorem me hac anu certo scio
vidisse numquam, nimisque ego hanc metuo male,
ne mi ex insidiis verba imprudenti duit
neu persentiscat aurum ubi est absconditum,
quae in occipitio quoque habet oculos pessima.
nunc ibo ut visam sitne ita aurum ut condidi,
quod me sollicitat plurimis miserum modis. —

Staph.
Noenum mecastor quid ego ero dicam meo
malae rei evenisse quamve insaniam,
queo comminisci; íta me miseram ad hunc modum
decies die uno saepe extrudit aedibus.
nescio pol quae illunc hominem intemperiae tenent:
pervigilat noctes totas, tum autem interdius
quasi claudus sutor domi sedet totos dies.
neque iam quo pacto celem erilis filiae
probrum, propinqua partitudo cui appetit,
queo comminisci; neque quicquam meliust mihi,
ut opinor, quam ex me ut unam faciam litteram
longam, meum laqueo collum quando obstrinxero.

Evcl.

Nunc defaecato demum animo egredior domo,
postquam perspexi salva esse intus omnia.
redi núnciam intro atque intus serva.

Staph.
Quippini?
ego intus servem? an ne quis aedes auferat?
nam hic apud nos nihil est aliud quaesti furibus,
ita inaniis sunt oppletae atque araneis.

Evcl.

Mirum quin tua me causa faciat Iuppiter
Philippum regem aut Dareum, trivenefica.
araneas mihi ego illas servari volo.
pauper sum; fateor, patior; quod di dant fero.
abi intro, occlude ianuam. iam ego hic ero.
cave quémquam alienum in aedis intro miseris.
quod quispiam ignem quaerat, extingui volo,
ne causae quid sit quod te quisquam quaeritet.
nam si ignis vivet, tu extinguere extempulo.
tum aquam aufugisse dicito, si quis petet.
cultrum, securim, pistillum, mortarium,
quae utenda vasa semper vicini rogant,
fures venisse atque abstulisse dicito.
profecto in aedis meas me absente neminem
volo intro mitti. atque etiam hoc praedico tibi,
si Bona Fortuna veniat, ne intro miseris.

Staph.
Pol ea ipsa credo ne intro mittatur cavet,
nam ad aedis nostras numquam adit, quamquam prope est.

Evcl.

Tace atque abi intro.

Staph.
Taceo atque abeo. —

Evcl.

Occlude sis
fores ambobus pessulis. iam ego hic ero.
discrucior animi, quía ab domo abeundum est mihi.
nimis hercle invitus abeo. sed quid agam scio.
nam noster nostrae qui est magister curiae
dividere argenti dixit nummos in viros;
id si relinquo ac non peto, omnes ilico
me suspicentur, credo, habere aurum domi.

nam non est veri simile, hominem pauperem
pauxillum parvi facere quin nummum petat.
nam nunc cum celo sedulo omnis, ne sciant,
omnes videntur scire et me benignius
omnes salutant quam salutabant prius;
adeunt, consistunt, copulantur dexteras,
rogitant me ut valeam, quid agam, quid rerum geram.
nunc quo profectus sum ibo; postidea domum
me rursum quantum potero tantum recipiam.

ACT II.

Evnomia
Velím te arbitrári med haéc verba, fráter,
meai fidei tuaique rei
causa facere, ut aequom est germanam sororem.
quamquam haud falsa sum nos odiosas haberi;
nam multum loquaces merito omnes habemur,
nec mutam profecto repertam ullam esse
aut hodie dicunt mulierem aut ullo in saeclo.
verum hoc, frater, unum tamen cogitato,
tibi proximam me mihique esse item te;
ita aequom est quod in rem esse utrique arbitremur
et mihi te et tibi me consulere et monere;
neque óccultum id habéri neque pér metúm mussári,
quin participem pariter ego te et tu me ut facias.
eo núnc ego secreto ted huc foras seduxi,
ut tuam rém ego tecum hic loquerer familiarem.

Megadorvs
Da mi, optuma femina, manum.

Evn.
Vbi ea est? quis ea est nam optuma?

Meg.
Tu.

Evn.
Túne ais?

Meg.
Si négas, nego.

Evn.
Decet te équidem vera próloqui;
nam optúma nullá potest eligi:

alia ália peior, fráter, est.

Meg.
Idem ego árbitror,
néc tibi advorsari certum est de istac ré umquam, soror.

Evn.
Dá mihí óperam amabó.

Meg.
Tuast, útere atque
ímpera, si quíd vis.

Evn.
Íd quod in rém tuam óptumum esse árbitror,
téd id monitum advénto.

Meg.
Soror, móre tuo facis.

Evn.
Fáctum volo.

Meg.
Quid ést id, sorór?

Evn.
Quod tibí sempitérnum
salútare sit: liberís procreándis
(ita dí faxint) volo te úxorem
domum dúcere.

Meg.
Ei occidí.

Evn.
Quid ita?

Meg.
Quia míhi misero cerebrum éxcutiunt
tua dícta, soror: lapidés loqueris.

Evn.
Heia, hoc face quod te iubet soror.

Meg.
Si lubeat, faciam.

Evn.
In rem hoc tuam est.

Meg.
Vt quidem emoriar prius quam ducam.
sed hís legibús si quam dáre vis dúcam:
quae crás veniat, peréndie forás feratur;
his legibús dare vís? cedo: nuptiás adorna.

Evn.
Cum máxima possúm tibi, fratér, dare dote;
sed ést grandiór natu: média est múlieris aetas.
eam sí iubes, fratér, tibi me póscere, poscam.

Meg.
Núm non vis me intérrogare te?

Evn.
Ímmo, si quid vís, roga.

Meg.
Post mediam aetatem qui media ducit uxorem domum,
si eam senex anum praegnatem fortuito fecerit,
quid dubitas, quin sit paratum nomen puero Postumus?
nunc ego istúm, soror, laborem demam et deminuam tibi.
ego virtute deum et maiorum nostrum dives sum satis.
istas magnas factiones, animos, dotes dapsiles,
clámores, impéria, eburata véhicla, pallas, púrpuram,

nil moror quae in servitutem sumptibus redigunt viros.

E.
Dic mihi, quaeso, quis ea est, quam vis ducere uxorem?

M.
Eloquar.
nostin hunc senem Euclionem ex proximo pauperculum?

Evn.
Novi, hominem haud malum mecastor.

Meg.
Eius cupio filiam
virginem mihi desponderi. verba ne facias, soror.
scio quid dictura es: hanc esse pauperem. haec pauper placet.

E.
Di bene vortant.

M.
Idem ego spero.

E.
Quid me? num quid vis?

M.
Vale.

Evn.
Et tu, frater. —

Meg.
Ego conveniam Eúclionem, si domi est.
sed eccum video. nescio unde sese homo recipit domum.

Evclio
Praesagibat mi animus frustra me ire, quom exibam domo;

itaque abibam invitus; nam neque quisquam curialium
venit neque magister quem dividere argentum oportuit.
nunc domum properare propero, nam egomet sum hic, animus domi est.

Meg.
Salvos atque fortunatus, Euclio, semper sies.

Evcl.

Di te ament, Megadore.

M.
Quid tu? recten atque ut vis vales?

Evcl.

Non temerarium est, ubi dives blande appellat pauperem.
iam illic homo aurum scit me habere, eo me salutat blandius.

Meg.
Ain tu te valere?

Evcl.

Pol ego haud perbene a pecunia.

Meg.
Pol si est animus aequos tibi, sat hábes qui bene vitam colas.

Evcl.

Anus hercle huic indicium fecit de auro, perspicue palam est,
cui ego iam linguam praecidam atque oculos effodiam domi.

Meg.
Quid tu solus tecum loquere?

Evcl.

Meam pauperiem conqueror.
virginem habeo grandem, dote cassam atque inlocabilem,
neque eam queo locare cuiquam.

Meg.
Tace, bonum habe animum, Euclio.
dabitur, adiuvabere a me. dic, si quid opust, impera.

Evcl.

Nunc petit, cum pollicetur; inhiat aurum ut devoret.
altera manu fert lapidem, panem ostentat altera.
nemini credo qui large blandust dives pauperi:
ubi manum inicit benigne, ibi onerat aliqua zamia.
ego istos novi polypos, qui ubi quidquid tetigerunt tenent.

Meg.
Da mi operam parumper. paucis, Euclio, est quod te volo
de communi re appellare mea et tua.

Evcl.

Ei misero mihi,
aurum mi intus harpagatum est. nunc hic eam rem volt, scio,
mecum adire ad pactionem. verum intervisam domum.

Meg.
Quo abis?

Evcl.

Iam ad te revortar: nunc est quod visam domum. —

Meg.
Credo edepol, ubi mentionem ego fecero de filia,
mi ut despondeat, sese a me derideri rebitur;
neque illo quisquam est alter hodie ex paupertate parcior.

Evcl.

Di me servant, salva res est. salvom est si quid non perit.
nimis malé timui. prius quam íntro redii, exanimatus fui.
redeo ad te, Megadore, si quid me vis.

Meg.
Habeo gratiam.
quaeso, quod te percontabor, ne id te pigeat proloqui.

Evcl.

Dum quidem né quid perconteris quod non lubeat proloqui.

Meg.
Dic mihi, quali me arbitrare genere prognatum?

Evcl.

Bono.

M.
Quid fide?

E.
Bona.

M.
Quid factis?

E.
Neque malis neque improbis.

Meg.
Aetatem meam scís?

Evcl.

Scio esse grandem, item ut pecuniam.

Meg.
Certe edepol equidem te civem sine mala omni malitia
semper sum arbitratus et nunc arbitror.

Evcl.

Aurum huic olet.
quid nunc me vis?

Meg.
Quoniam tu me et ego te qualis sis scio,
quae res recte vortat mihique tibique tuaeque filiae,
filiam tuám mi uxorem posco. promitte hoc fore.

Evcl.

Heia, Megadore, haud decorum facinus tuis factis facis,
ut inopem atque innoxium abs te atque abs tuis me inrideas.
nam de te neque re neque verbis merui ut faceres quod facis.

Meg.
Neque edepol ego te derisum venio neque derideo,
neque dignum arbitror.

Evcl.

Cur igitur poscis meam gnatam tibi?

Meg.
Vt propter me tibi sit melius mihique propter te et tuos.

Evcl.

Venit hoc mihi, Megadóre, in mentem, ted esse hominem divitem,
factiosum, me autem esse hominem pauperum pauperrimum;
nunc si filiam locassim meam tibi, in mentem venit
te bovem esse et me esse asellum: ubi tecum coniunctus siem,
ubi onus nequeam ferre pariter, iaceam ego asinus in luto,

tu me bos magis haud respicias, gnatus quasi numquam siem.
et te utar iniquiore ét meus me ordo inrideat,
neutrubi habeam stabile stabulum, si quid divorti fuat:
asini me mordicibus scindant, boves incursent cornibus.
hoc magnum est periclum, ab asinis ad boves transcendere.

Meg.
Quam ad probos propinquitate proxime te adiunxeris,
tam optumum est. tu condicionem hanc accipe, ausculta mihi,
atque eam desponde mi.

Evcl.

At nihil est dotis quod dem.

M.
Ne duas.
dum modó morata recte veniat, dotata est satis.

Evcl.

Eo dico, ne me thensauros repperisse censeas.

Meg.
Novi, ne doceas. desponde.

Evcl.

Fiat. sed pro Iuppiter,
num égo disperii?

M.
Quíd tibi est?

E.
Quid crepuit quasi ferrum modo? —

Meg.
Hic apud me hortúm confodere iussi. sed ubi hic est homo?

abiit neque me certiorem fecit. fastidit mei,
quia videt me suam amicitiam velle: more hominum facit;
nam si opulentus it petitum pauperioris gratiam,
pauper metuit congrediri, per metum male rem gerit.
idem, quando occasio illaec periit, post sero cupit.

Evcl.

Si hercle ego te non elinguandam dedero usque ab radicibus,
impero auctorque ego sum, ut tu me cuivis castrandum loces.

Meg.
Video hercle ego te me arbitrari, Eúclio, hominem idoneum,
quem senecta aetate ludos facias, haud merito meo.

Evcl.

Neque edepol, Megadore, facio, neque, si cupiam, copia est.

Meg.
Quid nunc? etiam mihi despondes filiam?

Evcl.

Illis legibus,
cum illa dote quam tibi dixi.

Meg.
Sponden ergo?

Evcl.

Spondeo.

Meg.
Di bene vertant.

Evcl.

Ita di faxint. illud facito ut memineris,
convenisse ut ne quid dotis mea ad te afferret filia.

Meg.
Memini.

Evcl.

At scio quo vos soleatis pacto perplexarier:
pactum non pactum est, non pactum pactum est, quod vobis lubet.

Meg.
Nulla controversia mihi tecum erit. sed nuptias
num quae causa est quin faciamus hodie?

Evcl.

Immo edepol optuma.

Meg.
Ibo igitur, parabo. numquid me vis?

Evcl.

Istuc. ei et vale.

Meg.
Heus, Pythodice, sequere propere me ad macellum strenue. —

Evcl.

Illic hinc abiit. di immortales, obsecro, aurum quid valet.
credo ego illúm iam inaudivisse mi esse thensaurum domi.
id inhiat, ea affinitatem hanc obstinavit gratia.
ubi tu es, quae deblateravisti iam vicinis omnibus,
meae me filiae daturum dotem? heus, Staphyla, te voco.
ecquid audis? vascula intus pure propera atque elue:
filiam despondi ego: hodie huic nuptum Megadoro dabo.

Staphyla
Di bene vortant. verum ecastor non potest, subitum est nimis.

Evcl.

Tace atque abi. curata fac sint cum a foro redeam domum;
atque aedis occlude; iám ego hic adero. —

Staph.
Quid ego nunc agam?
nunc nobis prope adest exitium, mi atque erili filiae,
nunc probrum atque partitudo prope adest ut fiat palam;
quod celatum atque occultatum est usque adhuc, nunc non potest.
ibo intro, ut erus quae imperavit facta, cum veniat, sient.
nam ecastor malum maerore metuo ne mixtum bibam. —

Pythodicvs
Postquam óbsonavit erus et conduxit coquos
tibicinasque hasce apud forum, edixit mihi
ut dispertirem obsonium hic bifariam.

Anthrax
Me quidem hercle, dicam tibi palam, non divides;
si quo tu totum me ire vis, operam dabo.

Congrio
Bellum et pudicum vero prostibulum popli.
post si quis vellet, te haud non velles dividi.

Pyth.
Atque ego istuc, Anthrax, alio vorsum dixeram,
non istuc quo tu insimulas. sed erus nuptias
meus hodie faciet.

Anthr.
Cuius ducit filiam?

Pyth.

Vicini huius Euclionis senis e proximo.
ei adeo obsoni hinc iussit dimidium dari,
cocum alterum itidemque alteram tibicinam.

Anthr.
Nempe huc dimidium dicis, dimidium domum?

Pyth.
Nempe sícut dicis.

Anthr.
Quíd? hic non poterat de suo
senex óbsonari filiai nuptiis?

Pyth.
Vah.

Anthr.
Quid negotist?

Pyth.
Quid negoti sit rogas?
pumex non aeque est aridus atque hic est senex.

Anthr.
Ain tandem?

Pyth.
Ita esse ut dixi. tute existuma:

* *

suam rem periisse seque eradicarier.
quin divom atque hominum clamat continuo fidem,
de suo tigillo fumus si qua exit foras.
quin cum it dormitum, follem obstringit ob gulam.

Anthr.
Cur?

Pyth.
Ne quid animae forte amittat dormiens.

Anthr.
Etiamne obturat inferiorem gutturem,
ne quid animai forte amittat dormiens?

Pyth.
Haec mihi te ut tibi med aequom est, credo, credere.

Anthr.
Immo equidem credo.

Pyth.
At scin etiam quo modo?
aquam hercle plorat, cum lavat, profundere.

Anthr.
Censen talentum magnum exorari pote
ab istóc sene ut det, qui fiamus liberi?

Pyth.
Famem hercle utendam si roges, numquam dabit.
quin ipsi pridem tonsor unguis dempserat:
collegit, omnia abstulit praesegmina.

Anthr.
Edepol mortalem parce parcum praedicas.

Pyth.
Censen vero esse parcum et misere vivere?
pulmentum pridem éi eripuit miluos:
homo ad praetorem plorabundus devenit;
infit ibi postulare plorans, eiulans,
ut sibi liceret miluom vadarier.

sescenta sunt quae memorem, si sit otium.
sed uter vestrorum est celerior? memora mihi.

Anthr.
Ego, et multo melior.

Pyth.
Cocum ego, non furem rogo.

Anthr.
Cocum ergo dico.

Pyth.
Quid tu ais?

Cong.
Sic sum ut vides.

Anthr.
Cocus ille nundinalest, in nonum diem
solet ire coctum.

Cong.
Tun, trium litterarum homo,
me vituperas? fur.

Anthr.
Etiam fur, trifurcifer.

Pyth.
Tace nunciam tu, atque agnum hinc uter est pinguior
cape atque abi intro ad nos.

Anthr.
Licet. —

Pyth.
Tu, Congrio,

quem illic reliquit agnum, eum sume atque abi

*intro illuc, et vos illum sequimini.
vos ceteri ite huc ad nos.

Cong.
Hercle iniuria
dispertivisti: pinguiorem agnum isti habent.

Pyth.
At nunc tibi dabitur pinguior tibicina.
i sane cum illo, Phrugia. tu autem, Eleusium,
huc intro abi ad nos.

Cong.
O Pythodice subdole,
hucine detrusti me ad senem parcissimum?
ubi si quid poscam, usque ad ravim poscam prius
quam quicquam detur.

Pyth.
Stultus et sine gratia es.
† tibi recte facere, quando quod facias perit.

Cong.
Qui vero?

Pyth.
Rogitas? iam principio in aedibus
turba istic nulla tibi erit: siquid uti voles,
domo abs te adferto, ne operam perdas poscere.
hic autem apud nos magna turba ac familia est,
supellex, aurum, vestis, vasa argentea:
ibi si perierit quippiam (quod te scio
facile abstinere posse, si nihil obviam est),
dicant: coqui abstulerunt, comprehendite,
vincite, verberate, in puteum condite.
horum tibi istic nihil eveniet: quippe qui

ubi quid subripias nihil est. sequere hac me.

Cong.
Sequor.

Pyth.
Heus, Staphyla, prodi atque ostium aperi.

Staphyla
Qui vocat?

Pyth.
Pythodicus.

Staph.
Quid vis?

Pyth.
Hos ut accipias coquos
tibicinamque obsoniumque in nuptias.
Megadorus iussit Euclioni haec mittere.

Staph.
Cererin, Pythodice, has sunt facturi nuptias?

Pyth.
Qui?

Staph.
Quia temeti nihil allatum intellego.

Pyth.
At iam afferetur, si a foro ipsus redierit.

Staph.
Ligna hic apud nos nulla sunt.

Cong.
Sunt asseres?

Staph.
Sunt pol.

Cong.
Sunt igitur ligna, ne quaeras foris.

Staph.
Quid, impurate? quamquam Volcano studes,
cenaene causa aut tuae mercedis gratia
nos nostras aedis postulas comburere?

Cong.
Haud postulo.

Pyth.
Duc istos intro.

Staph.
Sequimini. —

Pyth.
Curate. ego intervisam quid faciant coqui;
quos pol ut ego hodie servem, cura maxuma est.
nisi unum hoc faciam, ut in puteo cenam coquant:
inde cóctam sursum subducemus corbulis.
si aútem deorsum comedent, si quid coxerint,
superi incenati sunt et cenati inferi.
sed verba hic facio, quasi negoti nil siet,
rapacidarum ubi tantum sit in aedibus.

Evclio
Volui animum tandem confirmare hodie meum,
ut bene me haberem filiai nuptiis.
venio ad macellum, rogito pisces: indicant
caros; agninam caram, caram bubulam,
vitulinam, cetum, porcinam: cara omnia.
atque eo fuerunt cariora, aes non erat.
abeo íratus illinc, quoniam nihil est qui emam.

ita illís impuris omnibus adii manum.
deinde egomet mecum cogitare intervias
occepi: festo die si quid prodegeris,
profesto egere liceat, nisi peperceris.
postquam hanc rationem ventri cordique edidi,
accessit animus ad meam sententiam,
quam minimo sumptu filiam ut nuptum darem.
nunc tusculum emi hoc et coronas floreas:
haec imponentur in foco nostro Lari,
ut fortunatas faciat gnatae nuptias.
sed quid ego apertas aedis nostras conspicor?
et strepitust intus. numnam ego compilor miser?

Congrio
Aulam maiorem, si pote, ex vicinia
pete: haec est parva, capere non quit.

Evcl.

Ei mihi,
perii hercle. aúrum rapitur, aula quaeritur.
nímirum occidor, nisi ego intro huc propere propero currere.
Apollo, quaeso, subveni mi atque adiuva,
confige ságittis fures thensaurarios,
si cui in re tali iam subvenisti antidhac.
sed cesso prius quam prorsus perii currere?

Anthrax
Dromo, desquama piscis. tu, Machaerio,
congrum, murenam exdorsua quantum potest.
ego hinc artoptam ex proximo utendam peto
a Congrione. tu istum gallum, si sapis,
glabriorem reddes mihi quam volsus ludiust.
sed quid hoc clamoris oritur hinc ex proximo?
coqui hercle, credo, faciunt officium suom.
fugiam intro, ne quid turbae hic itidem fuat.

ACT III.

Congrio
†Óptati vires populares, íncolae, accolae, ádvenae omnes,
date viam qua fugere liceat, facite totae plateae pateant.
neque ego umquam nisi hodie ad Bacchas veni in Bacchanal coquinatum,
ita me miserum et meos discipulos fustibus male contuderunt.
totús doleo atque oppidó perii, ita me íste habuit senex gýmnasium;
áttat, perii hercle ego miser,
áperit bacchanal, adest,
séquitur. scio quam rem geram: hoc
ipsús magistér me dócuit.
neque lígna ego usquam gentium praebéri vidi púlchrius,
itaque ómnis exegit foras, me atque hos, onustos fustibus.

Evclio
Redi. quó fugis nunc? téne, tene.

Cong.
Quid, stólide, clamas?

Evcl.

Quia ad trís viros iam ego déferam nomén tuom.

C.
Quam ob rem?

Evcl.

Quia cultrum habes.

Cong.
Cocum decet.

Evcl.

Quid comminatu's
mihi?

Cong.
Istud male factum arbitror, quia nón latus fódi.

Evcl.

Homo nullust te scelestior qui vivat hodie,
neque quoi égo de industria ámplius male plús libens fáxim.

Cong.
Pol etsí taceas, palam id quidem est: res ipsa testist;
ita fustibus sum mollior magis quam úllus cinaédus.
sed quid tibi nos tactiost, mendice homo?

Evcl.

Quae res?
etiam rogitas? an quia minus quam aéquom erat feci?

Cong.
Sine, at hércle cum magnó malo tuo, si hóc caput séntit.

Evcl.

Pol ego haud scio quid post fuat: tuom núnc caput séntit.
sed in aedibus quid tibi meis nam erat negoti
me absente, nisi ego iusseram? volo scíre.

Cong.
Tace érgo.
quia venimus coctum ad nuptias.

Evcl.

Quid tu, malum, cúras,
utrum crudum an coctum ego edim, nisi tu mi es tutor?

Cong.
Volo scire, sínas an non sinas nos coquere hic cenam?

Evcl.

Volo scire ego item, meae domi mean sálva futura?

Cong.
Vtinam mea mihi modo auferam, quae ádtuli, salva:
me haud paenitet, tua ne expetam.

Evcl.

Scio, né doce, novi.

Cong.
Quid est quá prohibes nunc gratia nos coquere hic cenam?
quid fecimus, quid diximus tibi secus quam velles?

Evcl.

Etiam rogitas, sceleste homo, qui angulós in omnis
mearum aedium et conclavium mihi pervium facitis?
ibi ubí tibi erat negotium, ad focum si adesses,
non fissile auferres caput: merito id tibi factum est.
adeo ut tu meam sententiam iam noscere possis:
si ad ianuam huc accesseris, nisi iussero, propius,
ego te faciam miserrimus mortalis uti sis.
scis iam meam sententiam. —

Cong.
Quo abis? redi rursum.
ita me bene amet Laverna, uti te iam, nisi reddi
mihí vasá iubes, pípulo hic differam ante aédis.
quíd ego nunc agám? ne ego edepol véni huc auspició malo.
nummo sum conductus: plus iam medico mercedest opus.

Evclio

Hoc quidem hercle, quoquo íbo, mecum erit, mecum feram,
neque isti id in tantis periclis umquam committam ut siet.
ite sane nunciam omnes, et coqui et tibicinae,
etiam íntro duce, si vis, vel gregem venalium,
coquite, facite, festinate nunciam quantum libet.

Cong.
Temperi, postquam implevisti fusti fissorum caput.

Evcl.

Intro abite, opera huc conducta est vostra, non oratio.

Cong.
Heus, senex, pro vapulando hercle égo abs te mercedem petam.
coctum ego, non vapulatum, dudum conductus fui.

Evcl.

Lege agito mecum. molestus ne sis. i et cenam coque,
aut abi in malum cruciatum ab aedibus.

Cong.
Abi tu modo. —

Evcl.

Illic hinc abiit. di immortales, facinus audax incipit
qui cum opulento pauper homine coepit rem habere aut negotium.†
veluti Megadorus temptat me ómnibus miserum modis,
qui simulavit mei honoris mittere huc causa coquos:
is ea causa misit, hoc qui surriperent misero mihi.
condigne etiam meus med intus gallus gallinacius,
qui érat anu peculiaris, perdidit paenissume.
ubi erat haec defossa, occepit ibi scalpurrire ungulis
cirum circa. quid opust verbis? ita mihi pectus peracuit:
capio fustem, obtrunco gallum, furem manufestarium.
credo edepol ego illi mercedem gallo pollicitos coquos,

si id palam fecisset. exemi ex manu † manubrium.
quid opust verbis? facta est pugna in gallo gallinacio.
sed Megadorus meus affinis eccum incedit a foro.
iam hunc non ausim praeterire, quin consistam et conloquar.

Megadorvs
Narravi amicis multis consilium meum
de condicione hac. Euclionis filiam
laudant. sapienter factum et consilio bono.
nam meo quidem animo sí idem faciant ceteri
opulentiores, pauperiorum filias
ut indotatas ducant uxores domum,
et multo fiat civitas concordior,
et invídia nos minore utamur quam utimur,
et illaé malam rem metuant quam metuont magis,
et nos minore sumptu simus quam sumus.
in maximam illuc populi partem est optimum;
in pauciores avidos altercatio est,
quorum animis avidis atque insatietatibus
neque lex neque sutor capere est qui possit modum.
namque hoc qui dicat "quo illae nubent divites
dotatae, si istud ius pauperibus ponitur?"
quo lubeant, nubant, dum dos ne fiat comes.
hoc sí ita fiat, mores meliores sibi
parent, pro dote quos ferant, quam nunc ferunt,
ego faxim muli, pretio qui superant equos,
sint viliores Gallicis cantheriis.

Evcl.

Ita me di amabunt ut ego hunc ausculto lubens.
nimis lépide fecit verba ad parsimoniam.

Meg.
Nulla igitur dicat "equidem dotem ad te adtuli
maiorem multo quam tibi erat pecunia;
enim míhi quidem aequomst purpuram atque aurum dari,

ancillas, mulos, muliones, pedisequos,
salutigerulos pueros, vehicla qui vehar.”

Evcl.

Vt matronarum hic facta pernovit probe.
moribus praefectum mulierum hunc factum velim.

Meg.
Nunc quoquo venias plus plaustrorum in aedibus
videas quam ruri, quando ad villam veneris.
sed hoc étiam pulchrum est praequam ubi sumptus petunt.
stat fullo, phyrgio, aurifex, lanarius;
caupones patagiarii, indusiarii,
flammarii, violarii, carinarii;
stant manulearii, stant † murobatharii,
propolae linteones, calceolarii;
sedentárii sutores diabathrarii,
solearii astant, astant molocinarii;
petunt fullones, sarcinatores petunt;
strophiarii astant, astant semul sonarii.
iam hosce absolutos censeas: cedunt, petunt
treceni, cum stant thylacistae in atriis
textores limbularii, arcularii.
ducuntur, datur aes. iam absolutos censeas,
cum incedunt infectores corcotarii,
aut aliqua mala crux semper est, quae aliquid petat.

Evcl.

Compellarem ego illum, ni metuam ne desinat
memorare mores mulierum: nunc sic sinam.

Meg.
Vbi nugivendis res soluta est omnibus,
ibi ad postremum cedit miles, aes petit.
itur, putatur ratio cum argentario;
miles inpransus astat, aes censet dari.

ubi disputata est ratio cum argentario,
etiam ipsus ultro debet argentario:
spes prorogatur militi in alium diem.
haec sunt atque aliae multae in magnis dotibus
incommoditates sumptusque intolerabiles.
nam quae indotata est, ea in potestate est viri;
dotatae mactant et malo et damno viros.
sed eccum adfinem ante aedes. quid agis, Euclio?

Evcl.

Nimium lubenter edi sermonem tuom.

Meg.
An audivisti?

Evcl.

Vsque a principio omnia.

Meg.
Tamen meó quidem animo aliquánto facias rectius,
si nitidior sis filiai nuptiis.

Evcl.

Pro re nitorem et gloriam pro copia
qui habent, meminerunt sese unde oriundi sient.
neque pol, Megadore, mihi neque quoiquam pauperi
opinione melius res structa est domi.

Meg.
Immo est quod satis est, et di faciant ut siet
plus plusque et istuc sospitent quod nunc habes.

Evcl.

Illud mihi verbum non placet ‘quod nunc habes.’

tam hoc scit me habere quam egomet. anus fecit palam.

Meg.
Quid tu te solus e senatu sevocas?

Evcl.

Pol ego ut te accusem merito meditabar.

Meg.
Quid est?

Evcl.

Quid sit me rogitas? qui mihi omnis angulos
furum implevisti in aedibus misero mihi,
qui mi intro misti in aedis quingentos coquos,
cum senis manibus, genere Geryonaceo;
quos si Argus servet, qui oculeus totus fuit,
quem quondam Ioni Iuno custodem addidit,
is numquam servet. praeterea tibicinam,
quae mi interbibere sola, si vino scatat,
Corinthiensem fontem Pirenam potest.
tum obsonium autem —

Meg.
Pol vel legioni sat est.
etiam agnum misi.

Evcl.

Quo quidem agno sat scio
magis curionem nusquam esse ullam beluam.

Meg.
Volo ego ex te scire qui sit agnus curio.

Evcl.

Quia ossa ac pellis totust, ita cura macet.
quin exta inspicere in sole ei vivo licet:
ita is pellucet quasi lanterna Punica.

Meg.
Caedundum conduxi égo illum.

Evcl.

Tum tu idem optumumst
loces éfferendum; nam iam, credo, mortuost.

Meg.
Potare ego hodie, Euclio, tecum volo.

Evcl.

Non potem égo quidem hercle.

Meg.
At ego iussero
cadum unum vini veteris a me adferrier.

Evcl.

Nolo hercle, nam mihi bibere decretum est aquam.

Meg.
Ego te hodie reddam madidum, si vivo, probe,
tibi cui decretum est bibere aquam.

Evcl.

Scio quam rem agat:
ut me deponat vino, eam adfectat viam,
post hoc quod habeo ut commutet coloniam.
ego id cavebo, nam alicubi abstrudam foris.
ego faxo et operam et vinum perdiderit simul.

Meg.
Ego, nisi quid me vis, eo lavatum, ut sacruficem. —

Evcl.

Edepol, ne tu, aula, multos inimicos habes
atque istuc aurum quod tibi concreditum est.
nunc hoc mihi factu est optumum, ut ted auferam,
aula, in Fidei fanum: ibi abstrudam probe.
Fides, novisti me et ego te: cave sis tibi,
ne in me mutassis nomen, si hoc concreduo.
ibo ad te fretus tua, Fides, fiducia. —

ACT IV.

Strobilvs
Hóc est servi facinus frugi, facere quod ego persequor,
ne morae molestiaeque imperium erile habeat sibi.
nam qui ero ex sententia servire servos postulat,
in erum matura, in se sera condecet capessere.
sin dormitet, ita dormitet, servom sese ut cogitet.
nám qui amanti ero sérvitutem servit, quasi ego servio,
si érum videt superare amorem, hoc servi esse officium reor,
retinere ad salutem, non enim quo incumbat eo impellere.
quasi pueri qui nare discunt scirpea induitur ratis,
qui laborent minus, facilius ut nent et moveant manus,
eodem modo servom ratem esse amanti ero aequom censeo,
ut eum toleret, ne pessum abeat tamquam

* *

† erile imperium ediscat, ut quod frons velit oculi sciant;
quod iubeat citis quadrigis citius properet persequi.
qui éa curabit, abstinebit censione bubula,
nec sua opera rediget umquam ín splendorem compedes.
nunc erus meus amat fíliam huius Euclionis pauperis;
eam ero nunc renuntiatum est nuptum huic Megadoro dari.
is speculatum huc misit me, ut quae fierent fieret particeps.
nunc sine omní suspicione in ara hic adsidam sacra;
hinc ego et huc et illuc potero quid agant arbitrarier.

Evclio
Tu modo cave quoiquam indicassis aurum meum esse istic, Fides:
non metuo ne quisquam inveniat, ita probe in latebris situmst.
edepol ne illic pulchram praedam agát, si quis illam invenerit
aulam onustam auri; verum id te quaeso ut prohibessis, Fides.
nunc lavabo, ut rem divinam faciam, ne affinem morer
quin ubi accersát meam extemplo filiam ducat domum.
vide, Fides, etiam atque etiam nunc, salvam ut aulam abs te auferam:

tuae fide concredidi aurum, in tuo luco et fano est situm. —

Strob.
Di immortales, quod ego hunc hominem facinus audivi loqui:
se aulam onustam auri abstrusisse hic intus in fano Fide.
cave tu illi fidelis, quaeso, potius fueris, quam mihi.
atque hic pater est, ut ego opinor, huius, erus quám amat, virginis.
ibo hinc intro, perscrutabor fanum, si inveniam uspiam
aurum, dúm hic est occupatus. sed si repperero, o Fides,
mulsi congialem plenam faciam tibi fideliam.
id adeo tibi faciam; verum ego mihi bibam, ubi id fecero. —

Evclio
Non temere est quod corvos cantat mihi nunc ab laeva manu;
semul radebat pedibus terram et voce croccibat sua:
continuo meum cor coepit artem facere ludicram
atque in pectus emicare. sed ego cesso currere?
I foras, lumbrice, qui sub terra erepsisti modo,
qui modo nusquam comparebas, nunc, cum compares, peris.
ego pol te, praestrigiator, miseris iam accipiam modis.

Strobilvs
Quae te mala crux agitat? quid tibi mecum est commerci, senex?
quid me adflictas? quid me raptas? qua me causa verberas?

Evcl.

Verberabilissime, etiam rogitas, non fur, sed trifur?

Strob.
Quid tibi súrrupui?

Evcl.

Redde huc sis.

Strob.
Quid tibi vis reddam?

Evcl.

Rogas?

Strob.
Nil equidem tibi abstuli.

Evcl.

At illud quod tibi abstuleras cedo.
ecquid agis?

Strob.
Quid agám?

E.
Auferre non potes.

St.
Quid vis tibi?

Evcl.

Pone.

Strob.
Id quidem pol te datare credo consuetum, senex.

Evcl.

Pone hoc sis, aufer cavillam, non ego nunc nugas ago.

Strob.
Quid ego ponam? quin tu eloquere quidquid est suo nomine.
non hercle equidem quicquam sumpsi nec tetigi.

Evcl.

Ostende huc manus.

Strob.
Em tibi, ostendi, eccas.

Evcl.

Video. age ostende etiam tertiam.

Strob.
Laruae hunc atque intemperiae insaniaeque agitant senem.
facisne iniuriam mihi?

Evcl.

Fateor, quia non pendes, maximam.
atque id quoque iam fiet, nisi fatere.

Strob.
Quid fatear tibi?

Evcl.

Quid abstulisti hinc?

S.
Di me perdant. si ego tui quicquam abstuli
nive adeo abstulisse vellem.

Evcl.

Agedum, excutedum pallium.

Strob.
Tuo arbitratu.

E.
Ne inter tunicas habeas.

S.
Tempta qua lubet.

Evcl.

Vah, scelestus quam benigne: ut ne abstulisse intellegam.
novi sycophantias. age rusum óstende huc manum
dexteram.

S.
Em.

E.
Nunc laevam ostende.

S.
Quin equidem ambas profero.

E.
Iam scrutari mitto. redde huc.

S.
Quid reddam?

E.
A, nugas agis,
certe habes.

S.
Habeo ego? quid habeo?

E.
Non dico, audire expetis.
id meum, quidquid habes, redde.

Strob.
Insanis: perscrutatus es
tuo arbitratu, neque tui me quicquam invenisti penes.

Evcl.

Máne, mane. quís illic est? quis hic íntus alter érat tecum simul?

perii hercle: ille nunc íntus turbat, hunc si amitto hic abierit.
postremo hunc iam perscrutavi, hic nihil habet. abi quo lubet.

Strob.
Iuppiter te dique perdant.

Evcl.

Haud male egit gratias.
ibo intro atque illi socienno tuo iam interstringam gulam.
fugin hinc ab oculis? abin an non?

S.
Abeo.

E.
Cave sis † te videam. —

Strob.
Emortuom ego me mavelim leto malo
quam non ego illi dém hodie insidias seni.
nam híc iam non audebit aurum abstrudere:
credo ecferet iam secum et mutabit locum.
attat, foris crépuit. senex eccum aurum ecfert foras.
tantisper huc ego ad iánuam concessero.

Evclio
Fide censebam maxumam multo fidem
esse, ea sublevit os mihi paenissume:
ni subvenisset corvos, periissem miser.
nimis hercle ego illum corvom ad me veniat velim,
qui indicium fecit, ut ego ílli aliquid boni
dicam; nam quod edit tam duim quam perduim.
nunc hoc ubi abstrúdam cogito solum locum.
Silvani lucus extra murum est avius,
crebro salicto oppletus. ibi sumam locum.
certumst, Silvano potius credam quam Fide. —

Strob.
Euge, euge, di me salvom et servatum volunt.
iam ego illúc praecurram atque inscendam aliquam in arborem
indeque óbservabo, aúrum ubi abstrudat senex.
quamquam hic manere mé erus sese iusserat;
certum est, malam rem potius quaeram cum lucro. —

Lyconides
Dixi tibi, mater, iuxta rem mecum tenes,
super Euclionis filia. nunc te obsecro
resecroque, mater, quod dudum obsecraveram:
fac mentionem cum avonculo, mater mea.

Evnomia
Scis tute facta velle me quae tu velis,
et istúc confido a fratre me impetrassere;
et causa iusta est, siquidem ita est ut praedicas,
te eam cómpressisse vinulentum virginem.

Lyc.
Egone ut te advorsum mentiar, mater mea?

Phaedrivm
Perii, mea nutrix. obsecro te, uterum dolet.
Iuno Lucina, tuam fidem!

Lyc.
Em, mater mea,
tibi rem potiorem verbo: clamat, parturit.

Evn.
Ei hac intro mecum, gnate mi, ad fratrem meum,
ut istúc quod me oras impetratum ab eo auferam. —

Lyc.
I, iam sequor te, mater. sed servom meum
Strobilum miror ubi sit, quem ego me iusseram
hic opperiri. nunc ego mecum cogito:

si mihi dat operam, me illi irasci iniurium est.
ibo intro, ubí de capite meo sunt comitia. —

Strobilvs
Picis divitiis, qui aureos montes colunt,
ego solus supero. nam istos reges ceteros
memorare nolo, hominum mendicabula:
ego sum ille rex Philippus. o lepidum diem.
nam ut dudum hinc abii, multo illo adveni prior
multoque prius me conlocavi in arborem
indéque spectabam aúrum ubi abstrúdebat senex.
ubi ille ábiit, ego me deorsum duco de arbore,
exfodio aulam auri plenam. inde ex eo loco
video recipere se senem; ille me non videt,
nam ego declinavi paululum me extra viam.
attat, eccum ipsum. íbo ut hoc condam domum. —

Evclio
Perii ínterii occidi. quó curram? quo nón curram? tene, téne. quem? quis?
nesció, nil video, caécus eo atque equidém quo eam aut ubi sim aút qui sim
nequeó cum animo certum ínvestigare. óbsecro vos ego, mi aúxilio, oro óbtestor, sitís et hominem demónstretis, quis eam ábstulerit.
quid est? quíd ridetis? nóvi omnes, scio fúres esse hic cómplures,
qui véstitu et creta óccultant sese átque sedent quasi sínt frugi.
quid aís tu? tibi credére certum est, nam essé bonum ex voltu cógnosco.
hem, némo habet horum? occídisti. dic ígitur, quis habet? néscis?
heu mé miserum, miseré perii,
male pérditus, pessime ornatus eo:
tantúm gemiti et mali maéstitiaeque
hic diés mi optulít, famem et paúperiem.
perditíssimus ego sum omnium ín terra;
nam quid mi ópust vita, qui tántum auri
perdidí, quod concustódivi
sedúlo? egomet me défraudavi

animúmque meum geniúmque meum;
nunc eó alii laetíficantur
meo málo et damno. pati néqueo.

Lyconides
Quínam homo hic ante aédis nostras éiulans conquéritur maerens?
átque hic quidem Euclioést, ut opinor. óppido ego interií: palamst res,
scit peperisse iam, ut ego opinor, filiam suam. nunc mi incertumst abeam an maneam, an adeam an fugiam. quid agam édepol nescio.

Evcl.

Quís homo hic loquitur?

Lyc.
Égo sum miser.

Evcl.

Immo égo sum, et misere pérditus,
cui tanta mala maestitudoque optigit.

Lyc.
Animo bono es.

Evcl.

Quo, obsecro, pacto esse possum?

L.
Quia istuc facinus, quod tuom
sollicitat animum, id ego feci et fateor.

Evcl.

Quid ego ex te audio?

Lyc.

Id quod verumst.

E.
Quid ego de te commerui, adulescens, mali,
quam ob rem ita faceres meque meosque perditum ires liberos?

Lyc.
Deus impulsor mihi fuit, is me ád illam inlexit.

Evcl.

Quo modo?

Lyc.
Fateor peccavisse ét me culpam commeritum scio;
id adeo te oratum advenio ut animo aequo ignoscas mihi.

Evcl.

Cur id ausu's facere, ut id quod non tuom esset tangeres?

Lyc.
Quid vis fieri? factum est illud: fieri infectum non potest.
deos credo voluisse; nam ni vellent, non fieret, scio.

Evcl.

At ego deos credo voluisse ut ápud me te in nervo enicem.

Lyc.
Ne ístuc dixis.

Evcl.

Quid tibi ergo meam me invito tactiost?

Lyc.
Quia vini vitio atque amoris feci.

Evcl.

Homo audacissime,
cum istacin te oratione huc ad me adire ausum, impudens!
nam si istuc ius est ut tu istuc excusare possies,
luci claro deripiamus aurum matronis palam,
post id si prehensi simus, excusemus ebrios
nos fecisse amoris causa. nimis vilest vinum atque amor,
si ebrio atque amanti impune facere quod lubeat licet.

Lyc.
Quin tibi ultro supplicatum venio ob stultitiam meam.

Evcl.

Non mi homines placent qui quando male fecerunt purigant.
tu illam scibas non tuam esse: non attactam oportuit.

Lyc.
Ergo quia sum tangere ausus, haud causificor quin eam
ego habeam potissimum.

Evcl.

Tun habeas me invito meam?

Lyc.
Haud te invito postulo; sed meam esse oportere arbitror.
quin tu iam invenies, inquam, meam illam esse oportere, Euclio.

Evcl.

Iam quidem hercle te ad praetorem rapiam et tibi scribam dicam,
nisi refers.

Lyc.
Quid tibi ego referam?

Evcl.

Quod surripuisti meum.

Lyc.
Surripui ego tuom? unde? aut quid id est?

E.
Ita te amabit Iuppiter,
ut tu nescis.

Lyc.
Nisi quidem tu mihi quid quaeras dixeris.

Evcl.

Aulam auri, inquam, te reposco, quam tu confessu's mihi
te abstulisse.

Lyc.
Neque edepol ego dixi neque feci.

Evcl.

Negas?

Lyc.
Pernego immo. nam neque ego aurum neque istaec aula quae siet
scio nec novi.

Evcl.

Illam, ex Silvani luco quam abstuleras, cedo.
i, refer. dimidiam tecum potius partem dividam.
tam etsi fur mihi es, molestus non ero. i vero, refer.

Lyc.
Sanus tu non es qui furem me voces. ego te, Euclio,
dé alia re rescivisse censui, quod ad me attinet;
† magna est res quam ego tecum otiose, si otium est, cupio loqui.

Evcl.

Dic bona fide: tu id aurum non surripuisti?

Lyc.
Bona.

E.
Neque eum scis qui abstulerit?

L.
Istuc quoque bona.

E.
Atque id si scies
qui abstulerit, mihi indicabis?

Lyc.
Faciam.

Evcl.

Neque partem tibi
ab eo qui habet indipisces neque furem excipies?

Lyc.
Ita.

Evcl.

Quid si fallis?

Lyc.
Tum me faciat quod volt magnus Iuppiter.

Evcl.

Sat habeo. age nunc loquere quid vis.

Lyc.
Si me novisti minus,
génere quo sim gnátus: hic mihi ést Megadorus avonculus,
meus pater fuit Antímachus, ego vocor Lyconides,
mater est Eunomia.

Evcl.

Novi genus. nunc quid vis? id volo
noscere.

Lyc.
Filiam ex te tú habes.

Evcl.

Immo éccillam domi.

Lyc.
Eam tu despondisti, opinor, meo avonculo.

Evcl.

Omnem rem tenes.

Lyc.
Is me nunc renuntiare repudium iussit tibi.

Evcl.

Repudium rebus paratis, exornatis nuptiis?
ut illum di immortales omnes deaeque quantum est perduint,
quem propter hodie auri tantum perdidi infelix, miser.

Lyc.
Bono animo es, bene dice. nunc quae res tibi et gnatae tuae
bene feliciterque vortat — ita di faxint, inquito.

Evcl.

Ita di faciant.

Lyc.
Et mihi ita di faciant. audi nunciam.
qui homo culpam admisit in se, nullust tam parvi preti,
quom pudeat, quin purget sese. nunc te obtestor, Euclio,
ut si quid ego erga te imprudens peccavi aut gnatam tuam,
ut mi ignoscas eamque uxorem mihi des, ut leges iubent.
ego me iniuriam fecisse filiae fateor tuae,
Cereris vigiliis, per vinum atque impulsu adulescentiae.

Evcl.

Ei mihi, quód ego facinus ex te aúdio?

Lyc.
Cur eiulas,
quém ego avom feci iam ut esses filiai nuptiis?
nam tua gnata peperit, decumo mense post: numerum cape;
ea re repudium remisit avonculus causa mea.
i intro, exquaere, sitne ita ut ego praedico.

Evcl.

Perii oppido,
ita mihi ad malum malae res plurimae se adglutinant.
ibo intro, ut quid huius verum sit sciam. —

Lyc.
Iam te sequor.
haec própemodum iam esse ín vado salútis res vidétur.
nunc servom esse ubi dicam meum Strobilum non reperio;
nisi etiam hic opperiar tamen paulisper; postea intro
hunc subsequar. nunc interim spatium ei dabo exquirendi
meum factum ex gnatae pedisequa nutrice anu: ea rem novit.

ACT V.

Strobilvs
Di ímmortales, quíbus et quantis mé donatis gaúdiis.
quadrilibrem aulam aúro onustam hábeo. quis me est ditior?
quis me Athenis nunc magis quisquam est homo cui di sint propitii?

L.
Certo enim ego vocem hic loquentis modo mi audire visus sum.

S.
Hem,
érumne ego aspició meum?

L.
Videón ego hunc servóm meum?

S.
Ipsus est.

L.
Haud alius est.

S.
Congrediar.

L.
Contollam gradum.
credo ego illum, út iussi, eámpse anum adiisse, huius nutrícem
virginis.

Strob.
Quin ego illi me invenisse dico hanc praedam atque eloquar,
igitur orabo ut manu me emittat. ibo atque eloquar.
repperi —

Lyc.

Quid repperisti?

Strob.
Non quod pueri clamitant
in faba se repperisse.

Lyc.
Iamne autem, ut soles? deludis.

S.
Ere, mane, eloquar iam, ausculta.

L.
Age ergo loquere.

S.
Repperi hodie,
ere, divitias nimias.

L.
Vbinam?

S.
Quadrilibrem, inquam, aulam auri plenam.

Lyc.
Quod ego facinus audio ex te? Euclioni hic seni subripuit.
ubi id est aurum?

Strob.
In arca apud me. nunc volo me emitti manu.

Lyc.
Égone te emittám manu,
scélerum cumulatissume?

Strob.
Abi, ere, scio quam rem geras.

lépide hercle animum tuom temptavi. iám ut eriperes apparabas:
quid faceres, si repperissem?

Lyc.
Non potes probasse nugas.
i, redde aurum.

Strob.
Reddam ego aurum?

Lyc.
Redde, inquam, út huic reddatur.

Strob.
Vnde?

Lyc.
Quod modo fassu's esse in arca.

S.
Soleo hercle ego garrire nugas.

Lyc.

* *

Strob.
Itá loquor.

Lyc.
At scin quo modo?

* *

Strob.
Vel hercle énica,
numquam hinc feres a me

* *

* * *

“

pro illís corcotis, stróphiis, sumptu uxório

“

Non. **538**M

“

ut admemordit hominem

“

Gel. N.A. **6**.**9**.

6

“

(Evcl.)

ego ecfodiebam ín die denos scrobes.

“

Non. **225**M

“

(Evcl.)

30nec noctu nec diu

quietus umquam servabam eam: nunc dormiam.

“

Non. **98**M

“

qui mi holera cruda ponunt, hallec adduint.

“

Non. **120**M

BACCHIDES

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ACT I.

“
quíbus ingenium in animo utibilest, modicum et sine vernilitate
“
Non.**342**M
“
víncla, virgaé, molae: saévitudo mala fit peior
“
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“
convérrite ... scópis, agite strénue
“
Char.&**3**GL&**1**.**219**K
“
ecquis évocat
5cum nassiterna et cum aqua istum impurissimum?
“
Festus**169**M
“
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(Bacchis)
ílla mi cognominis fuit
“
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“
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“
sció spiritum éius maiórem esse multo
10quam folles taurini habént, cum liquescunt
petraé, ferrum ubí fit. Cuiatis tibi visust?
Praenéstinum opino esse, ita erat gloriosus.
“
Prisc.&**3**GL&**2.575**K
“
néque id haud subditiva glória oppidum arbitror.
“
Don.Ter.&**3**An.&**1.2**.

“
(Pver)
ne a quóquam acciperes alio mercedem annuam,
“
Non.**334**M
“
15nisi ab sése, nec cum quiquam limares caput.
“
Non.**334**M
“
limaces viri
“
Non.**333**M
“
cór meum, spés mea,
mél meum, suávitudó, cibus, gaúdium.
“
Non.**173**M
“
síne te amem
“

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13

“

20Cupidon tecum saevust anne Amor?
“

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“

Vlíxem audivi fuisse aerumnosissimum,
qui annis viginti errans a patria afuit;
verum hic adulescens multo Vlixem anteit ...
qui ílico errat intra muros civicos.
“

Char.&**3**GL&**1**.**201**K
“

25quidquid est nomen sibi
“

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“

(Pistoclervs)
quaé sodalem átque me exércitos habet
“

Char.&**3**GL&**1**.**229**K,Non.**6**M
“

nam crédo cuivis excantare cor potes.
“

Non.**102**M
“

sin lénocinium forte collibitum est tibi,
videas mercedis quid tibi est aecum dari,
30ne istac aetate me sectere gratiis.

“

Char.&**3**GL&**1**.**200**K

“

Arabus

“

Char.&**3**GL&**1**.**123**K

Bacchis.
Quíd si hoc potis est út tu taceas, égo loquar?

Soror.
Lepidé, licet.

Bacch.
Vbi me fugiet memoria, ibi tu facito ut subvenias, soror.

Sor.
Pol magis metuo, ne defuerit mi in monendo oratio.

Bacch.
Pol ego metuo, lusciniolae ne defuerit cantio.
sequere hac.

Pistoclervs.
Quid agunt duae germanae meretrices cognomines?
quid in consilio consuluistis?

Bacch.
Bene.

Pist.
Pol haud meretricium est.

Bacch.
Miserius nihil est quam mulier.

Pist.
Quid esse dices dignius?

Bacch.
Haec ita me orat, sibi qui caveat aliquem ut hominem reperiam,
ut istunc militem — ut, ubi emeritum sibi sit, se revehat domum.
id, amabo te, huic caveas.

Pist.
Quid isti caveam?

B.
Vt revehatur domum,
ubi ei dediderit operas, ne hanc ille habeat pro ancilla sibi;
nam si haec habeat aurum quod illi renumeret, faciat lubens.

P.
Vbi nunc is homost?

B.
Iam hic credo aderit. sed hoc idem apud nos rectius
poteris agere; atque is dum veniat, sedens ibi opperibere.
eadem biberis, eadem dedero tibi, ubi biberis, savium.

P.
Viscus merus vostrast blanditia.

B.
Quid iam?

P.
Quia enim intellego,
duae unum éxpetitis palumbem, † perii harundo alas verberat.
non ego istúc facinus mihi, mulier, conducibile esse arbitror.

Bacch.
Quí, amabo?

Pist.
Quia, Bacchis, bacchas metuo et bacchanal tuom.

Bacch.
Quid est? quid metuis? ne tibi lectus malitiam apud me suadeat?

Pist.
Magis illectum tuom quam lectum metuo. mala tu es bestia.
nam huic aetati non conducit, mulier, latebrosus locus.

Bacch.
Egomet, apud me si quid stulte facere cupias, prohibeam.
sed ego apud me te esse ob eam rem, miles cum veniat, volo,
quia, cum tu aderis, huic mihique haud faciet quisquam iniuriam:
tu prohibebis, et eadem opera tuo sodali operam dabis;
et ille adveniens tuam med esse amicam suspicabitur.
quid, amabo, opticuisti?

Pist.
Quia istaec lepida sunt memoratui:
eadem in usu atque ubi periclum facias, aculeata sunt,
animum fodicant, bona distimulant, facta et famam sauciant.

Sor.
Quid ab hac metuis?

Pist.
Quid ego metuam rogitas? adulescens homo
penetrem me huius modi in palaestram, ubi damnis desudascitur?
ubi pro disco damnum capiam, pro cursura dedecus?

Bacch.
Lepide memoras.

Pist.
Vbi ego capiam pro machaera turturem,
ubique imponat in manum alius mihi pro cestu cantharum
pro galea scaphium, pro insigni sit corolla plectilis,
pro hasta talos, pro lorica malacum capiam pallium,
ubi mihi pró equo lectus detur, scortum pro scuto accubet?
apage a me, apage.

B.
Ah, nimium ferus es.

P.
Mihi sum.

B.
Malacissandus es.
equidem tibi do hanc operam.

Pist.
Ah, nimium pretiosa es operaria.

Bacch.
Simulato me amare.

Pist.
Vtrum égo istuc iócon adsimulem an serio?

Bacch.
Heia, hoc agere meliust. miles quom huc adveniat, te volo
me amplexari.

Pist.
Quid eo mi opus est?

Bacch.
Vt ille te videat volo.
scio quid ago.

Pist.
Et pol égo scio quid metuo. sed quid ais?

B.
Quid est?

Pist.
Quid si apud te eveniát desubito prandium aut potatio

forte aut cena, ut solet in istis fieri conciliabulis,
ubi ego tum accumbam?

Bacch.
Ápud me, mi anime, ut lepidus cum lepida accubet.
locus hic apud nos, quamvis subito venias, semper liber est.
ubi tu lepide vóles esse tibi, méa rosa, mihi dicito
‘dato qui bene sit’: ego ubi bene sit tibi locum lepidum dabo.

Pist.
Rapidus fluvius est hic, non hac temere transiri potest.

Bacch.
Atque ecastor apud hunc fluvium áliquid perdundumst tibi.
manum da et sequere.

P.
Aha, minime.

B.
Quid ita?

P.
Quia istoc in lecebrosius
fieri nil potest: nox mulier vinum homini adulescentulo.

Bacch.
Age igitur, equidem pol nihili facio nisi causa tua.
ille quidem hanc abducet; tú nullus ádfueris, si non lubet.

Pist.
Sumne autem nihili, qui nequeam ingenio moderari meo?

B.
Quid est quod metuas?

P.
Nihil est, nugae. mulier, tibi me emancupo:

tuos sum, tibi dedo operam.

B.
Lepidu's. nunc ego te facere hoc volo.
ego sorori meae cenam hodie dare volo viaticam:
eo tibi argentum iubebo iam intus ecferri foras;
tu facito opsonatum nobis sit opulentum opsonium.

Pist.
Ego opsonabo, nam id flagitium meum sit, mea te gratia
et operam dare mi ét ad eam operam facere sumptum de tuo.

Bacch.
At ego nolo dare te quicquam.

P.
Sine.

B.
Sino equidem, si lubet.
propera, amabo.

Pist.
Prius hic adero quam te amare desinam. —

Sor.
Bene me accipies advenientem, mea soror.

Bacch.
Quid ita, obsecro?

Sor.
Quia piscatus meo quidem animo hic tibi hodie evenit bonus.

Bacch.
Meus ille quidemst. tibi nunc operam dabo de Mnesilocho, soror,
ut hic accipias potius aurum, quam hinc eas cum milite.

Sor.
Cupio.

Bacch.
Dabitur opera. aqua calet: eamus hinc intro, ut laves.
nám uti navi vecta es, credo timida es.

Sor.
Aliquantum, soror.
simul huic nescio cui, turbare qui huc it, decedamus ...

Bacch.
Sequere hac igitur me intro in lectum, ut sedes lassitudinem.

Lydvs
Iam dudum, Pistoclere, tacitus te sequor,
expectans quas tu res hoc ornatu geras.
namque ita me di ament, ut Lycurgus mihi quidem
videtur posse hic ad nequitiam adducier.
quo nunc capessis ted hinc adversa via
cum tanta pompa?

Pistoclervs

Húc.
Lyd.
Quid huc? quis istíc habet?

Pist.
Amor, Voluptas, Venus, Venustas, Gaudium,
Iocus, Lúdus, Sermo, Suavisaviatio.

Lyd.
Quid tibi commercist cum dis damnosissimis?

Pist.
Mali sunt homines, qui bonis dicunt male;
tu dis nec recte dicis: non aequom facis.

Lyd.
An deus est ullus Suavisaviatio?

Pist.
An non putasti esse umquam? o Lyde, es barbarus;
quem ego sapere nimio censui plus quam Thalem,
is stultior es barbaro poticio,
qui tantus natu deorum nescis nomina.

Lyd.
Non hic placet mi ornatus.

Pist.
Nemo ergo tibi
haec apparavit: mihi paratum est quoi placet.

Lyd.
Etiam me advorsus exordire argutias?
qui si decem habeas linguas, mutum esse addecet.

Pist.
Non omnis aetas, Lyde, ludo convenit.
magis unum in mentemst mihi nunc, satis ut commode
pro dignitate opsoni haec concuret cocus.

Lyd.
Iam perdidisti te atque me atque operam meam,
qui tibi nequiquam saepe monstravi bene.

Pist.
Ibidem égo meam operam perdidi, ubi tu tuam:
tua disciplina nec mihi prodest nec tibi.

Lyd.
O praeligatum pectus.

Pist.
Odiosus mihi es.

tace atque sequere, Lyde, me.

Lyd.
Illuc sis vide,
non paedagogum iam me, sed Lydum vocat.

Pist.
Non par videtur neque sit consentaneum,
cum haec qui emit intus sit et cúm amica accubet
cumque osculetur et convivae alii accubent,
praesentibus illis paedagogus una ut siet.

Lyd.
An hoc ad eas res opsonatumst, obsecro?

Pist.
Sperat quidem animus: quo evenat dis in manust.

Lyd.
Tu amicam habebis?

Pist.
Cum videbis, tum scies.

Lyd.
Immo neque habebis neque sinam. i prorsum domum.

Pist.
Omitte, Lyde, ac cave malo.

Lyd.
Quid? cave malo?

Pist.
Iam excessit mi aetas ex magisterio tuo.

Lyd.
O barathrum, ubi nunc es? ut ego te usurpem lubens.

video nimio iam multo plus quam volueram.
vixisse nimio satiust iam quam vivere.
magistron quemquam discipulum minitarier?
nil moror discipulos mihi iam plenos sanguinis:
valens afflictat me vacivom virium.

Pist.
Fiam, ut ego opinor, Hercules, tu autem Linus.

Lyd.
Pol metuo magis, ne Phoenix tuis factis fuam
teque ad patrem esse mortuom renuntiem.

Pist.
Satis historiarumst.

Lyd.
Hic vereri perdidit.
compendium edepol haud aetati optabile
fecisti, cum istanc nactu's inpudentiam.
occisus hic homo est. ecquid in mentem est tibi
patrem tibi esse?

Pist.
Tibi ego an tu mihi servos es?

Lyd.
Peior magister te istaec docuit, non ego.
nimio es tu ad istas res discipulus docilior,
quam ad illa quae te docui, ubi operam perdidi.
edepol fecisti furtum in aetatem malum
cum istaec flagitia me celavisti et patrem.

Pist.
Istactenus tibi, Lyde, libertas datast
orationis. satis est. sequere hac me ac tace. —

ACT II.

Chrysalvs
Erilis patria, salve, quam ego biennio,
postquam hinc in Ephesum abii, conspicio lubens.
saluto te, vicine Apollo, qui aedibus
propinquos nostris accolis, veneroque te,
ne Nicobulum me sinas nostrum senem
prius cónvenire quam sodalem viderim
Mnesilochi Pistoclerum, quem ad epistulam
Mnesilochus misit super amica Bacchide.

Pistoclervs
Mirumst me ut redeam te opere tanto quaesere,
qui abire hinc nullo pacto possim, si velim:
ita me vadatum amore vinctumque adtines.

Chrys.
Pro di immortales, Pistoclerum conspicor.
o Pistoclere, salve.

Pist.
Salve, Chrysale.

Chrys.
Compendi verba multa iam faciam tibi.
venire tu me gaudes: ego credo tibi;
hospitium et cenam pollicere, ut convenit
peregre advenienti: ego autem venturum adnuo.
salutem tibi ab sodáli solidam nuntio:
rogabis me úbi sit: vivit.

Pist.
Nempe recté valet?

Chrys.
Istuc volebam ego ex te percontarier.

Pist.
Qui scire possum?

Chrys.
Nullus plus.

Pist.
Quemnam ad modum?

Chrys.
Quia si illa inventa est, quam ille amat, recte valet;
si non inventa est, minus valet moribundusque est.
animast amica amanti: sí abest, nullus est;
si adest, res nullast: ipsus est — nequam et miser.
sed tu quid factitasti mandatis super?

Pist.
Egon ut, quod ab illoc attigisset nuntius,
non impetratum id advenienti ei redderem?
regiones colere mavellem Acherunticas.

Chrys.
Eho, an ínvenisti Bacchidem?

Pist.
Samiam quidem.

Chrys.
Vide quaeso, ne quis tractet illam indiligens;
scis tu ut confringi vas cito Samium solet.

Pist.
Iamne ut soles?

Chrys.
Dic ubi ea nunc est, obsecro.

Pist.

Hic, exeuntem me unde aspexisti modo.

Chrys.
Vt istúc est lepidum: proximae viciniae
habitat. ecquidnam meminit Mnesilochi?

Pist.
Rogas?
immo unice unum plurimi pendit.

Chrys.
Papae.

Pist.
Immo ut eam credis? misera amans desiderat.

Chrys.
Scitum istuc.

Pist.
Immo, Chrysale, em non tantulum
umquam intermittit tempus quin eum nominet.

Chrys.
Tanto hercle melior.

Pist.
Immo —

Chrys.
Immo hercle abiero
potius.

Pist.
Num invitus rem bene gestam audis eri?

Chrys.
Non res, sed actor mihi cor odio sauciat.

etiam Epidicum, quam ego fabulam aeque ac me ipsum amo,
nullam aeque invitus specto, sí agit Pellio.
sed Bacchis etiam fortis tibi visast?

Pist.
Rogas?
ni nanctus Venerem essem, hanc Iunonem dicerem.

Chrys.
Edepol, Mnesiloche, ut hanc rem natam intellego,
quod ames paratumst: quod des inventost opus.
nam istic fortasse auro est opust.

Pist.
Phílippeo quidem.

Chrys.
Atque eo fortasse iám opust.

Pist.
Immo etiam prius:
nam iam huc adveniet miles.

Chrys.
Et miles quidem?

Pist.
Qui de amittenda Bacchide aurum hic exiget.

Chrys.
Veniat quando volt, atque ita ne mihi sit morae.
domist: non metuo nec ego quoiquam supplico,
dum quidem hoc valebit pectus perfidia meum.
abi intro, ego hic curabo. tu intus dicito
Mnesilochum adesse Bacchidi.

Pist.
Faciam ut iubes. —

Chrys.
Negotium hoc ad me adtinet aurarium.
mille et ducentos Philippos áttulimus aureos
Epheso, quos hospes debuit nostro seni.
inde ego hodie aliquam machinabor machinam,
unde aurum efficiam amanti erili filio.
sed foris concrepuit nostra: quinam exit foras?

Nicobvlvs
Ibo in Piraeum, visam écquae advenerit
in portum ex Epheso navis mercatoria.
nam meus formidat animus, nostrum tam diu
ibi desidere neque redire filium.

Chrys.
Extexam ego illum pulchre iam, si di volunt.
haud dormitandumst: opus est chryso Chrysalo.
adibo hunc, quem quidem ego hódie faciam hic arietem
Phrixi, itaque tondebo auro usque ad vivam cutem.
servos salutat Nicobulum Chrysalus.

Nic.
Pro di immortales, Chrysale, ubi mist filius?

Chrys.
Quin tu salutem primum reddis quam dedi?

Nic.
Salve. sed ubinamst Mnesilochus?

Chrys.
Vivit, valet.

Nic.
Venitne?

Chrys.
Venit.

Nic.
Euax, aspersisti aquam.
benene usque valuit?

Chrys.
Pancratice atque athletice.

Nic.
Quid hoc? qua causa éum in Ephesum miseram,
accepitne aurum ab hospite Archidemide?

Chrys.
Heu, cor meum et cerebrum, Nicobule, finditur,
istius hominis ubi fit quomque mentio.
tun hospitem illum nominas hostem tuom?

Nic.
Quid ita, obsecro hercle?

Chrys.
Quia edepol certo scio,
Volcanus, Luna, Sol, Dies, dei quattuor,
scelestiorem nullum inluxere alterum.

Nic.
Quamne Archidemidem?

Chrys.
Quam, inquam, Archidemidem.

Nic.
Quid fecit?

Chrys.
Quid non fecit? quin tu id me rogas?
primumdum infitias ire coepit filio,
negare se debere tibi triobulum.
continuo ántiquom hospitem nostrum sibi

Mnesilochus advocavit, Pelagonem senem;
eo praésente homini extemplo ostendit symbolum,
quem tute dederas, ad eum ut ferret, filio.

Nic.
Quid ubi ei ostendit symbolum?

Chrys.
Infit dicere
adulterinum et non eum esse symbolum.
quotque innocenti ei dixit contumelias!
adulterare eum aibat rebus ceteris.

Nic.
Habetin aurum? íd mihi dici volo.

Chrys.
Postquam quidem praétor recuperatores dedit,
damnatus demum, vi coactus reddidit
ducentós et mille Phílippum.

Nic.
Tantum debuit.

Chrys.
Porro etiam ausculta pugnam quam voluit dare.

Nic.
Etiamnest quid porro?

Chrys.
Em, áccipitrina haec nunc erit.

Nic.
Deceptus sum, Autolyco hospiti aurum credidi.

Chrys.
Quin tu audi.

Nic.
Immo ingenium avidi haud pernoram hospitis.

Chrys.
Postquam aurum abstulimus, in navem conscendimus,
domi cupientes. forte ut adsedi in stega,
dum circumspecto, átque ego lembum conspicor
longum, strigorem maleficum exornarier.

Nic.
Perii hercle, lembus ille mihi laedit latus.

Chrys.
Is erat communis cum hospite et praedonibus.

Nic.
Adeon me fuisse fungum, ut qui illi crederem,
cum mi ipsum nomen eius Archidemides
clamaret dempturum esse, si quid crederem?

Chrys.
Is lembus nostrae navi insidias dabat.
occepi ego observare eos quam rem gerant.
interea e portu nostra navis solvitur.
ubi portu eximus, homines remigio sequi,
neque aves neque venti citius. quoniam sentio
quae res gereretur, navem extemplo statuimus.
quoniam vident nos stare, occeperunt ratem
turbare in portu.

Nic.
Edepol mortalis malos.
quid denique agitis?

Chrys.
Rursum in portum recipimus.

Nic.

Sapienter factum a vobis. quid illi postea?

Chrys.
Revorsionem ad terram faciunt vesperi.

Nic.
Aurum hercle auferre voluere: ei rei operam dabant.

Chrys.
Non me fefellit, sensi, eo exanimatus fui.
quoniam videmus auro insidias fieri,
capimus consilium continuo; postridie
auferimus aurum ómne illis praesentibus,
palam atque aperte, ut illi id factum sciscerent.

Nic.
Scite hercle. cedo quid illi?

Chrys.
Tristes ilico,
quom extemplo a portu íre nos cum auro vident,
subducunt lembum capitibus quassantibus.
nos apud Theotímum omne aurum deposivimus,
qui illic sacerdos est Dianae Ephesiae.

Nic.
Quis istíc Theotimust?

Chrys.
Megalobuli filius,
qui nunc in Ephesost Ephesiis carissimus.

Nic.
Ne ille hercle mihi sit multo tanto carior,
si me illo auro tanto circumduxerit.

Chrys.
Quin in eapse aede Dianai conditumst;

ibidem publicitus servant.

Nic.
Occidistis me;
nimio hic privatim servaretur rectius.
sed nilne áttulistis inde auri domum?

Chrys.
Immo etiam. verum quantum attulerit nescio.

Nic.
Quid? nescis?

Chrys.
Quia Mnesilochus noctu clanculum
devenit ad Theotimum, nec mihi credere
nec cuiquam in navi voluit: eo ego nescio
quantillum attulerit; verum haud permultum attulit.

Nic.
Etiam dimidium censes?

Chrys.
Non edepol scio;
verum haud opinor.

Nic.
Fertne partem tertiam?

Chrys.
Non hercle opinor; verum verum nescio.
profecto de auro nil scio nisi nescio.
nunc tibimet illuc navi capiundumst iter,
ut illúd reportes aurum ab Theotimo domum.
atque heus tu.

Nic.
Quid vis?

Chrys.
Anulum gnati tui
facito ut memineris ferre.

Nic.
Quid opust anulo?

Chrys.
Quia id sígnumst cum Theotimo, quí eum illi adferet,
ei aurum ut reddat.

Nic.
Meminero, et recte mones.
sed divesne est istic Theotimus?

Chrys.
Etiam rogas?
quin auro hábeat soccis subpactum solum?

Nic.
Cur ita fastidit?

Chrys.
Tantas divitias habet;
nescit quid faciat auro.

Nic.
Mihi dederit velim.
sed qui praesente id aurum Theotimo datumst?

Chrys.
Populo praesente: nullust Ephesi quin sciat.

Nic.
Istuc sapienter saltem fecit filius,
cum diviti homini id aurum servandum dedit;
ab eo licebit quamvis subito sumere.

Chrys.
Immo em tantisper numquam te morabitur,
quin habeas illud quo die illuc veneris.

Nic.
Censebam me effugisse a vita marituma,
ne navigarem tandem hoc aetatis senex;
id mi haud, utrum velim, licere intellego:
ita bellus hospes fecit Archidemides.
ubi nunc est ergo meus Mnesilochus filius?

Chrys.
Deos átque amicos iit salutatum ad forum.

Nic.
At ego hinc ad illum, ut convenam quantum potest. —

Chrys.
Ille est oneratus recte et plus iusto vehit.
exorsa haec tela non male omnino mihi est:
ut amantem erilem copem facerem filium,
ita feci, ut auri quantum vellet sumeret,
quantum autem lubeat reddere ut reddat patri.
senex in Ephesum íbit aurum arcessere,
hic nostra agetur aetas in malacum modum,
siquidem híc relinquet neque secum abducet senex
med et Mnesilochum. quas ego hic turbas dabo!
sed quid futurumst, cum hoc senex resciverit,
cum se excucurrisse illuc frustra sciverit
nosque aurum abusos? quid mihi fiet postea?
credo hercle adveniens nomen mutabit mihi
facietque extemplo Crucisalum me ex Chrysalo.
aufugero hercle, si magis usus venerit.
si ero reprehensus, macto ego illum infortunio:
si illi sunt virgae ruri, at mihi tergum domist.
nunc ibo, erili filio hanc fabricam dabo
super auro amicaque eius inventa Bacchide. —

ACT III.

Lydvs
Pándite atque aperíte propere iánuam hanc Orci, óbsecro.
nam équidem haud aliter esse duco, quippe quo nemo advenit,
nisi quem spes reliquere omnes, esse ut frugi possiet.
Bacchides non Bacchides, sed bacchae sunt acerrumae.
apage istas a me sorores, quae hominum sorbent sanguinem.
omnis ad perniciem instructa domus opime atque opipare —
quaé ut aspexi, me continuo contuli protinam in pedes.
egone ut haec conclusa gestem clanculum? ut celem patrem,
Pistoclere, tua flagitia aut damna aut desidiabula?
quibus patrem et me teque amicosque omnes affectas tuos
ad probrum, damnum, flagitium appellere una et perdere.
neque mei neque te tui intus puditumst factis quae facis,
quibus tuom patrem meque una, amicos, adfinis tuos
tua infámia fecisti gerulifigulos flagiti.
nunc prius quám malum istoc addis, certumst iam dicam patri
de me hanc culpam demolibor iam et seni faciam palam,
ut eum éx lutulento caeno propere hinc eliciat foras. —

Mnesilochvs
Múltimodis meditatus egomet mecum sum, et ita esse arbitror:
homini amico, qui est amicus ita uti nomen possidet,
nisi deos ei nil praestare; id opera expertus sum esse ita.
nám ut in Ephesum hinc abii (hoc factumst ferme abhinc biennium)
ex Epheso huc ad Pistoclerum meum sodalem litteras
misi, amicam ut mi inveniret Bacchidem. illum intellego
invenisse, ut servos meus mi nuntiavit Chrysalus.
condigne is quam techinam de auro advorsum meum fecit patrem,
ut mi amanti copia esset. séd eccum video incedere.
nam pol quidem meo animo ingrato hómine nihil inpensiust;
malefactorem amitti satius quam relinqui beneficum;
nimio inpendiosum praestat te quam ingratum dicier:
illum laudabunt boni, hunc etiam ipsi culpabunt mali.
qua me causa magis cum cura esse aecum, obvigilatost opus.

nunc, Mnesiloche, specimen specitur, nunc certamen cernitur,
sisne necne ut esse oportet, malus, bonus quoivis modi,
iustus iniustus, malignus largus, comis incommodus.
cave sis te superare servom siris faciundo bene.
utut eris, moneo, haud celabis. sed eccos video incedere
patrem sodalis et magistrum. hinc auscultabo quam rem agant.

Lydvs
Nunc experiar, sitne aceto tibi cor acre in pectore.
sequere.

Philoxenvs
Quo sequar? quo ducis nunc me?

Lyd.
Ad illam quae tuom
perdidit, pessum dedit tibi filium unice unicum.

Phil.
Heia, Lyde, leniter qui saeviunt sapiunt magis.
minus mirandumst, illaec aetas si quid illorum facit,
quam si non faciat. feci égo istaec itidem in adulescentia.

Lyd.
Ei mihi, ei mihi, istaec illum perdidit assentatio.
nam absque te esset, égo illum haberem rectum ad ingenium bonum:
nunc propter te tuamque pravos factus est fiduciam
Pistoclerus.

Mnes.
Di immortales, meum sodalem hic nominat.
quid hoc negoti est, Pistoclerum Lydus quod erum tam ciet?

Phil.
Paulisper, Lyde, est libido hómini suo animo obsequi;
iam aderit tempus, cum sese etiam ipse oderit. morem geras;
dum caveatur, praeter aequom ne quid delinquat, sine.

Lyd.
Non sino, neque equidem illum me vivo corrumpi sinam.
sed tu, qui pro tam corrupto dicis causam filio,
eademne erat haec disciplina tibi, cum tu adulescens eras?
nego tibi hoc annis viginti fuisse primis copiae,
digitum longe a paedagogo pedem ut efferres aedibus.
ante solem exorientém nisi in palaestram veneras,
gymnasi praefecto haúd mediocris poenas penderes.
id quom optigerat, hoc etiam ad malum accersebatur malum:
et discipulus et magister perhibebantur improbi.
ibi cursu luctando hásta disco pugilatu pila
saliendo sese exercebant magis quam scorto aut saviis:
ibi suam aetatem extendebant, non in latebrosis locis.
inde de hippodromo et palaestra ubi revenisses domum,
cincticulo praecinctus in sella apud magistrum adsideres
cum libro: cum legeres, si unam peccavisses syllabam,
fieret corium tam maculosum quam est nutricis pallium.

Mnes.
Propter me haec nunc meo sodali dici discrucior miser;
innocens suspicionem hanc sustinet causa mea.

Phil.
Alii, Lyde, nunc sunt mores.

Lyd.
Id equidem ego certo scio.
nam olim populi prius honorem capiebat suffragio,
quam magistro desinebat esse dicto oboediens;
at nunc, prius quam septuennis est, si attingas eum manu,
extemplo puer paédagogo tabula disrumpit caput.
cum patrem adeas postulatum, puero sic dicit pater:
‘noster esto, dum te poteris defensare iniuria.’
provocatur paedagogus: “eho senex minimi preti,
ne attigas puerum istac causa, quando fecit strenue.”
it magister quasi lucerna uncto expretus linteo.
itur illinc iure dicto. hócine hic pacto potest

inhibere imperium magister, si ipsus primus vapulet?

Mnes.
Acris postulatio haec est. cum huius dicta intellego,
mira sunt ni Pistoclerus Lydum pugnis contudit.

Lyd.
Sed quis hic est, quem astantem video ante ostium? o Philoxene,
deos propitios me videre quam illum haud mavellem mihi.

Phil.
Quis illic est?

Lyd.
Mnesilochus, gnati tui sodalis Pistocleri.
haud consimili ingenio atque ille est qui in lupanari accubat.
fortunatum Nicobulum, qui illum produxit sibi.

Phil.
Salvos sis, Mnesiloche, salvom te advenire gaudeo.

Mnes.
Di te ament, Philoxene.

Lyd.
Hic enim rite productust patri:
in mare it, rem familiarem curat, custodit domum,
obsequens oboediensque est mori atque imperiis patris.
hic sodalis Pistoclero iam puer puero fuit;
triduom non interest aetatis úter maior siet:
verum ingenium plus triginta ánnis maiust quam alteri.

Phil.
Cave malo et compesce in illum dicere iniuste.

Lyd.
Tace,
stultus es qui illi male aegre patere dici qui facit.

nam illum meum malum promptare malim quam peculium.

Phil.
Quidum?

Lyd.
Quia, malum si promptet, in dies faciat minus.

Mnes.
Quid sodalem meum castigas, Lyde, discipulum tuom?

Lyd.
Periit tibi sodalis.

Mnes.
Ne di sirint.

Lyd.
Sic est ut loquor.
quin ego cum peribat vidi, non ex audito arguo.

Mnes.
Quid factum est?

Lyd.
Meretricem indigne deperit.

M.
Non tu taces?

Lyd.
Atque acerrume aestuosam: absorbet ubi quemque attigit.

M.
Vbi ea mulier habitat?

L.
Hic.

M.
Vnde eam esse aiunt?

L.
Ex Samo.

M.
Quae vocatur?

L.
Bacchis.

M.
Erras, Lyde: ego omnem rem scio
quem ad modumst. tu Pistoclerum falso atque insontem arguis.
nam ille amico et benevolenti suo sodali sedulo
rem mandatam exsequitur. ipsus neque amat nec tu creduas.

Lyd.
Itane oportet rem mandatam gerere amici sedulo,
ut ipsus in gremio osculantem mulierem teneat sedens?
nullon pacto res mandata potest agi, nisi identidem
manus ferát ei ad papillas, lábra ab labris nusquam auferat?
nám alia memorare quae illum facere vidi dispudet:
cum manum sub vestimenta ad corpus tetulit Bacchidi
me praesente, neque pudere quicquam. quid verbis opust?
mihi discipulus, tibi sodalis periit, húic filius;
nám ego illum periisse dico quoi quidem periit pudor.
quid opust verbis? si opperiri vellem paulisper modo,
ut † opinor illius inspectandi mi esset maior copia,
plus viderem quam deceret, quam me atque illo aequom foret.

Mnes.
Perdidisti me, sodalis. egone ut illam mulierem
capitis non perdam? perire me malis malim modis.
satin ut quem tu habeás fidelem tibi aut cui credas néscias?

Lyd.

Viden ut aegre patitur gnatum ésse corruptum tuom,
suom sodalem, ut ipsus sese cruciat aegritudine?

Phil.
Mnesiloche, hoc tecum oro, ut illius animum atque ingenium regas;
serva tibi sodalem ét mihi filium.

Mnes.
Factum volo.

Lyd.
Melius esset, me quoque una si cum illo relinqueres.

Phil.
Adfatim est.

Lyd.
Mnesiloche, cura, ei, concastiga hominem probe,
qui dedecorat te, me amicosque alios flagitiis suis.

Phil.
In te ego hoc onus omne impono. Lyde, sequere hac me.

L.
Sequor. —

Mnes.
Inimiciorem nunc utrum credam magis
sodalemne esse an Bacchidem, incertum admodumst.
illum exoptavit potius? habeat. optumest.
ne illa illud hercle cum malo fecit suo;
nam mihi divini numquam quisquam creduat,
ni ego illam exemplis plurumis planeque — amo.
ego faxo hau dicet nactam quem derideat.
nam iam domum ibo atque — aliquid surrupiam patri.
id istí dabo. ego istanc multis ulciscar modis.
adeo égo illam cogam usque ut mendicet — meus pater.

sed satine ego animum mente sincera gero,
qui ad hunc modum haec hic quae futura fabulor?
amo hercle opino, ut pote quod pro certo sciam.
verum quam illa umquam de mea pecunia
ramenta fiat plumea propensior,
mendicum malim mendicando vincere.
numquam edepol viva me inridebit. nam mihi
decretumst renumerare iam omne aurum patri.
igitur mi inani atque inopi subblandibitur
tum quom blandiri nihilo pluris referet,
quam si ad sepulcrum mortuo narres logos.
sed autem quam illa umquam meis opulentiis
ramenta fiat gravior aut propensior,
mori me malim éxcruciatum ínopia.
profecto stabilest me patri aurum reddere.
eadem éxorabo, Chrysalo causa mea
pater ne noceat, neu quid ei suscenseat
mea causa de auro quod eum ludificatus est;
nam illi aequomst me consulere, qui causa mea
mendacium éi dixit. vos me sequimini. —

Pistoclervs
Rébus aliis antevortar, Bacchis, quae mandas mihi:
Mnesilochum ut requiram atque ut eum mecum ad te adducam simul.
nam illud animus meus miratur, si a me tetigit nuntius,
quid remoretur. ibo ut visam huc ad eum, si forte est domi.

Mnesilochvs
Reddidi patrí omne aurum. nunc ego illam me velim
convenire, postquam inanis sum, contemptricem meam.
sed veniam mihi quam gravate páter dedit de Chrysalo;
verum postremo impetravi, ut ne quid ei suscenseat.

Pist.
Estne hic meus sodalis?

Mnes.

Estne hic hostis, quem aspicio, meus?

Pist.
Certe is est.

Mnes.
Is est.

Pist.
Adibo contra et contollam gradum.
salvos sis, Mnesiloche.

Mnes.
Salve.

Pist.
Salvos quom peregre advenis,
cena detur.

Mnes.
Non placet mi cena quae bilem movet.

Pist.
Numquae advenienti aegritudo obiecta est?

Mnes.
Atque acerruma.

Pist.
Vnde?

Mnes.
Ab homine quem mi amicum esse arbitratus sum antidhac.

Pist.
Multi more isto atque exemplo vivont, quos cum censeas
esse amicos, reperiuntur falsi falsimoniis,
lingua factiosi, inertes opera, sublesta fide.

nullus est quoi non invideant rem secundam optingere;
sibi ne ínvideatur, ipsi ignavia recte cavent.

Mnes.
Edepol ne tu illorum mores perquam meditate tenes.
sed etiam unum hoc: ex ingenio malo malum inveniunt suo:
nulli amici sunt, inimicos ipsi in sese omnis habent.
ei se cum frustrantur, frustrari alios stolidi existumant.
sicut est hic, quem esse amicum ratus sum atque ipsus sum mihi:
ille, quod in se fuit, accuratum habuit quod posset mali
faceret in me, inconciliaret copias omnis meas.

Pist.
Improbum istunc esse oportet hominem.

Mnes.
Ego ita esse arbitror.

Pist.
Obsecro hercle loquere, quis is est.

Mnes.
Benevolens vivit tibi.
nam ni ita esset, tecum orarem ut éi quod posses mali
facere faceres.

Pist.
Dic modo hominem qui sit: si non fecero
ei male aliquo pacto, me esse dicito ignavissimum.

Mnes.
Nequam homost, verum hercle amicus est tibi.

Pist.
Tanto magis
dic quis est; nequam hominis ego parvi pendo gratiam.

Mnes.

Video non potesse quin tibi eius nomen eloquar.
Pistoclere, perdidisti me sodalem funditus.

Pist.
Quid istuc est?

Mnes.
Quid est? misine ego ad te ex Epheso epistulam
super amica, ut mi invenires?

Pist.
Fateor factum, et repperi.

Mnes.
Quid? tibi non erat meretricum aliarum Athenis copia
quibuscum haberes rem, nisi cum illa quám ego mandassem tibi
occiperes tute † amare et mi ires consultum male?

Pist.
Sanun es?

Mnes.
Rem repperi omnem ex tuo magistro. ne nega.
perdidisti me.

Pist.
Etiamne ultro tuis me prolectas probris?

Mnes.
Quid? amas Bacchidem?

Pist.
Duas ergo hic intus eccas Bacchides.

M.
Quid? duas?

P.

Átque ambas sorores.

M.
Loqueris nunc nugas sciens.

Pist.
Postremo, si pergis parvam mihi fidem arbitrarier,
tollam ego ted in collum atque intro hinc auferam.

M.
Immo ibo, mane.

Pist.
Non maneo, neque tu me habebis falso suspectum.

M.
Sequor. —

ACT IV.

Parasitvs
Parasitus ego sum hominis nequam atque improbi,
militis, qui amicam secum avexit ex Samo.
nunc me ire iussit ad eam et percontarier,
utrum aurum reddat anne eat secum semul.
tu dudum, puere, cum illac usque isti semul:
quae harum sunt aedes, pulta. adi actutum ad fores.
recede hinc dierecte. ut pulsat propudium!
comesse panem tris pedes latum potes,
fores pultare nescis. ecquis in aedibust?
heus, ecquis hic est? ecquis hoc aperit ostium?
ecquis éxit?

Pistoclervs
Quid istuc? quae istaec est pulsatio?
... quae te mala crux agitat, quí ad istunc modum
alieno viris tuas extentes ostio?
fores paene exfregisti. quid nunc vis tibi?

Par.
Adulescens, salve.

Pist.
Salve. sed quem quaeritas?

Par.
Bacchidem.

Pist.
Vtram ergo?

Par.
Nil scio nisi Bacchidem.
paucis: me misit miles ad eam Cleomachus,
vel ut ducentos Phílippos reddat aureos

vel ut hinc in Elatiam hodie eat secum semul.

Pist.
Non it. negat se ituram. abi et renuntia.
alium illa amat, non illum. duc te ab aedibus.

Par.
Nimis iracunde.

Pist.
At scin quam iracundus siem?
ne tíbi hercle haud longe est os ab infortunio,
ita dentifrangibula haec meis manibus gestiunt.

Par.
Cum ego huius verba interpretor, mihi cautiost,
ne nucifrangibula excussit ex malis meis.
tuo ego istaec igitur dicam illi periculo.

Pist.
Quid ais tu?

Par.
Ego istuc illi dicam.

Pist.
Dic mihi,
quis tu es?

Par.
Illius sum integumentum corporis.

Pist.
Nequam esse oportet cui tu integumentum improbu's.

Par.
Sufflatus ille huc veniet.

Pist.
Dirrumptum velim.

Par.
Numquid vis?

Pist.
Abeas. celeriter factost opus.

Par.
Vale, dentifrangibule. —

Pist.
Et tu, integumentum, vale.
in eum nunc haec res vénit locum, ut quid consili
dem meo sodali super amica nesciam,
qui iratus renumeravit omne aurum patri,
neque nummus ullust qui reddatur militi.
sed huc concedam, nam concrepuerunt fores.
Mnesilochus eccum maestus progreditur foras.

Mnesilochvs
Pétulans, protervo íracundo ánimo, indomito incógitato,
sine modo et modestia sum, sine bono iure atque honore,
incredibilis imposque animi, ínamabilis inlepidus vivo,
malevolente ingenio natus. postremo id mi est quod volo
ego esse áliis. credibile hóc est?
nequiór nemost neque indígnior quoi
di béne faciant neque quém quisquam
homo aút amet aut ádeat.
inimícos quam amícos aequómst med habére,
malós quam bonós par magís me iuváre.
ómnibus probris, quae ímprobis viris
dígna sunt, dígnior núllus est homo;
quí patri réddidi omne aúrum amans, mihi
quód fuit praé manu. súmne ego homo miser?
pérdidi mé simulque óperam Chrysali.

Pi.
Consólandus hic mist, íbo ad eum.
Mnesíloche, quid fit?

Mn.
Périi.

Pi.
Di mélius faciant.

Mn.
Périi.

Pi.
Non táces, insipiens?

Mn.
Táceam?

Pi.
Sanús satis non es.

Mn.
Périi.
múlta mala mi in péctore nunc ácria atque acérba eveniunt.
criminin me habuisse fídem? immérito tibi íratus fui.

Pi.
Heia, bonum habe ánimum.

Mn.
Vnde habeam? mortuos pluris pretist
quam égo sum.

Pi.
Militis parasitus venerat modo aurum petere hinc,
eum ego meis dictis malis his foribus atque hac platea abegi;
reppuli, reieci hominem.

Mn.
Quid mi id prodest? quom ipse veniet,
quid faciam? nil habeo miser. ille quidem hanc abducet, scio.

Pi.
Si mihi sit, nón pollicear.

Mn.
Scio, dares, novi tuom.
sed nisi ames, non habeam tibi fidem tantam; eó quod amas tamen
nunc agitas sat tute tuarum rérum; sin libér sies
egone ut opem mi ferre posse pútem inopem te? non potest.

Pi.
Tace modo: deus respiciet nos aliquis.

Mn.
Nugae. vale.

P.
Mane.

M.
Quid est?

P.
Tuam cópiam eccam Chrysalum video. tace.

Chrysalvs
Hunc hóminem decet auro éxpendi, huic décet statuam statui éx auro;
nam dúplex hodie facinús feci, duplicíbus spoliis sum adféctus.
érum maiorem méum ut ego hodie lúsi lepide, ut lúdificatust.
cállidum senem cállidis dolis
cómpuli et pérpuli, mi ómnia ut créderet.
núnc amanti ero fílio senis,
quícum égo bibo, quícum édo et amo,
régias cópias aúreasque óptuli,
út domo súmeret neú foris quaéreret.

nón mihi istí placent Pármenonés, Syri,
quí duas aut trís minas aúferunt eris.
néquius nil ést quam egens cónsili servós, nisi
hábet multipotens péctus:
úbicumque usús siet, péctore expromát suo.
nullús frugi esse pótest homo,
nisi qui ét bene et mále facere tenet.
ímprobis cum ímprobus sit, hárpaget fúribus,
fúretur quód queat,
vórsipellem frúgi cónvenit esse hominem,
péctus quoi sapít: bonus sít bonis, malus sít malis;
utcúmque res sit, ita ánimum hábeat.
séd lubet scíre quantum aúrum erus sibi
démpsit et quíd suo réddidit patri.
sí frugi est, Hérculem fécit ex patre:
décimam partem eí dedit, síbi novem abstulit.
séd quem quaero óptume eccum óbviam mihi est.
núm qui nummi éxciderúnt, ere, tibi,
quod síc terram optuére?
quid vós maestos tam trístesque esse cónspicor?
non plácet nec temere est étiam. quin mihi réspondetis?

Mnes.
Chrýsale, occidi.

Chrys.
Fortassis tu auri dempsisti parum?

Mnes.
Quam, malum, parum? immo vero nimio minus multo parum.

Chrys.
Quid igitur, stulte? an tu, quoniam occasio ad eam rem fuit
mea virtute parta, ut quantum velles tantum sumeres,
sic hoc digitulis duobus sumebas primoribus?
an nescibas quam eius modi hómini raro tempus se daret?

Mnes.
Erras.

Chrys.
At quidem túte errasti, cum parum immersti ampliter.

Mnes.
Pol tu quam nunc med accuses magis, si magis rem noveris.
occidi.

Chrys.
Animus iam istoc dicto plus praesagitur mali.

Mnes.
Perii.

Chrys.
Quid ita?

Mnes.
Quia patri omne cum ramento reddidi.

Chrys.
Reddidisti?

M.
Reddidi.

C.
Omnene?

M.
Oppido.

C.
Occisi sumus.
qui in mentem venit tibi istuc facinus facere tam malum?

Mnes.

Bacchidem atque hunc suspicabar propter crimen, Chrysale,
mi male consuluisse: ob eam rem omne aurum iratus reddidi
meo patri.

Chrys.
Quid, ubi reddebas aurum, dixisti patri?

Mnes.
Mé id aurum accepisse extemplo ab hospite Archidemide.

Chrys.
Em,
istoc dicto dédisti hodie ín cruciatum Chrysalum;
nam úbi me aspiciet, ad carnuficem rapiet continuo senex.

Mnes.
Ego patrem exoravi.

Chrys.
Nempe ergo hoc ut faceret quod loquor?

Mnes.
Immo tibi ne noceat neu quid ob eam rem suscenseat;
atque aegre impetravi. nunc hoc tibi curandumst, Chrysale.

Chrys.
Quid vis curem?

Mnes.
Vt ad senem etiam álteram facias viam.
compara, fabricare finge quod lubet, conglutina,
ut senem hodie doctum docte fallas aurumque auferas.

Chrys.
Vix videtur fieri posse.

Mnes.
Perge, ac facile ecfeceris.

Chrys.
Quam, malum, fácile, quem mendaci prendit manufesto modo?
quem si orem ut mihi nil credat, id non ausit credere.

Mnes.
Immo si audias quae dicta dixit me adversum tibi.

Chrys.
Quid dixit?

Mnes.
Si tu illum solem sibi solem esse diceres,
se illum lunam credere esse et noctem qui nunc est dies.

Chrys.
Emungam hercle hominem probe hodie, ne id nequiquam dixerit.

Mnes.
Nunc quid nos vis facere?

Chrys.
Énim nil nisi ut ametis impero.
ceterum quantum lubet me poscitote aurum: ego dabo.
quid mihi refert Chrysalo esse nomen, nisi factis probo?
sed nunc quantillum usust auri tibi, Mnesiloche? dic mihi.

Mnes.
Militi nummis ducentis iam usus est pro Bacchide.

Chrys.
Ego dabo.

Mnes.
Tum nobis opus est sumptu.

C.
Ah, placide volo
unum quidque agamus: hoc ubi egero, tum istuc agam.

de ducentis nummis primum intendam ballistam in senem;
ea ballista si pervortam turrim et propugnacula,
recta porta invadam extemplo in oppidum anticum et vetus:
si id capso, geritote amicis vostris aurum corbibus,
sicut animus sperat.

Pist.
Apud test animus noster, Chrysale.

Chrys.
Nunc tu abi intro, Pistoclere, ad Bacchidem, atque ecfer cito

Pist.
Quid?

C.
Stilum, ceram et tabellas, linum.

P.
Iam faxo hic erunt. —

Mnes.
Quid nunc es facturus? id mihi dice.

Chrys.
Coctumst prandium?
vos duo eritis atque amica tua erit tecum tertia?

Mnes.
Sicut dicis.

Chrys.
Pistoclero nulla amica est?

M.
Immo adest.
alteram ille amat sororem, ego alteram, ambas Bacchides.

Chrys.
Quid tu loquere?

Mnes.
Hoc, ut futuri sumus.

Chrys.
Vbist biclinium
vobis stratum?

Mnes.
Quid id exquaeris?

Chrys.
Res itast, dici volo.
nescis quid ego acturus sim nec facinus quantum exordiar.

Mnes.
Cedo manum ac subsequere propius me ad fores. intro inspice.

Chrys.
Euax, nimis bellus átque ut esse maxume optabam locus.

Pist.
Quae imperavisti. imperatum bene bonis factum ilicost.

Chrys.
Quid parasti?

Pist.
Quae parari tu iussisti ómnia.

Chrys.
Cape stilum propere et tabellas tu has tibi.

Mnes.
Quid postea?

Chrys.

Quod iubebo scribito istic. nam propterea te volo
scribere, ut pater cognoscat litteras quando legat.
scribe.

Mnes.
Quid scribam?

Chrys.
Salutem tuo patri verbis tuis.

Pist.
Quid si potius morbum mortem scribat? id erit rectius.

C.
Ne interturba.

M.
Iam imperatum in cera inest.

C.
Dic quem ad modum.

Mnes.
‘Mnesilochus salutem dicit suo patri.’

Chrys.
Adscribe hoc cito:
“Chrysalus mihi usque quaque loquitur nec recte, pater,
quia tibi aurum reddidi et quía non te fraudaverim.”

Pist.
Mane dum scribit.

Chrys.
Celerem oportet esse amatoris manum.

P.
Atque † idem hercle em perdundum magis quam ad scribundumst

cito.

M.
Loquere. hoc scriptumst.

C.
“Nunc, pater mi, proin tu ab eo ut caveas tibi,
sycophantias componit, aurum ut abs ted auferat;
et profecto se ablaturum dixit.” plane adscribito.

Mnes.
Dic modo.

Chrys.
“Atque id pollicetur se daturum aurum mihi,
quod dem scortis quodque in lustris comedim congraecem, pater.
sed, pater, vide né tibi hodie verba det: quaeso cave.”

M.
Loquere porro.

C.
Adscribe dum etiam.

M.
Loquere quid scribam modo.

Chrys.
“Sed, pater, quod promisisti mihi, te quaeso ut memineris,
ne illum verberes; verum apud te vinctum adservato domi.”
cedo tu ceram ac linum actutum. age obliga, obsigna cito.

Mnes.
Obsecro, quid istís ad istunc usust conscriptis modum,
ut tibi ne quid credat atque ut vinctum te adservet domi?

Chrys.
Quia mi ita lubet. potin ut cures te atque ut ne parcas mihi?

mea fiducia ópus conduxi et meo periclo rem gero.

Mnes.
Aequom dicis.

C.
Cedo tabellas.

M.
Accipe.

C.
Animum advortite.
Mnesiloche et tu, Pistoclere, iam facite in biclinio
cum amica sua uterque accubitum eatis, ita negotiumst,
atque ibidem ubi nunc sunt lecti strati potetis cito.

Pist.
Numquid aliud?

Chrys.
Hoc, atque etiam: úbi erit accubitum semel,
ne quoquam exsurgatis, donec a me erit signum datum.

Pist.
O imperatorem probum!

Chrys.
Iam bis bibisse oportuit.

Mnes.
Fugimus. —

Chrys.
Vos vostrum curate officium, ego efficiam meum.
insánum magnum molior negotium,
metuoque ut hodie possiem emolirier.
sed nunc truculento mi atque saevo usus senest;

nam non conducit húic sycophantiae
senem tranquillum ésse ubi me aspexerit.
versabo ego illum hodie, si vivo, probe.
tam frictum ego illum reddam quam frictum est cicer.
adambulabo ad ostium, ut, quando exeat,
extemplo advenienti ei tabellas dem in manum.

Nicobvlvs
Nimium illaec res est magnae dividiae mihi,
supterfugisse sic mihi hodie Chrysalum.

Chrys.
Salvos sum, iratus est senex. nunc est mihi
adeundi ad hominem tempus.

Nic.
Quis loquitur prope?
atque hic quidem, opinor, Chrysalust.

Chrys.
Accessero.

Nic.
Bone serve, salve. quid fit? quam mox navigo
in Ephesum, ut aurum repetam ab Theotimo domum?
taces? per omnis deos adiuro, ut ni meum
gnatum tam amem atque ei facta cupiam quae is velit,
ut tua iam virgis latera lacerentur probe
ferratusque in pistrino aetatem conteras.
omnia rescivi scelera ex Mnesilocho tua.

Chrys.
Men criminatust? optimest: ego sum malus,
ego sum sacer, scelestus. specta rem modo;
ego verbum faciam nullum.

Nic.
Etiam, carnufex,

minitare?

Chrys.
Nosces tu illum actutum qualis sit.
nunc has tabellas ferre me iussit tibi.
orabat, quod istic esset scriptum ut fieret.

Nic.
Cedo.

Chrys.
Nosce signum.

Nic.
Novi. ubi ipse est?

Chrys.
Nescio.
nil iam me oportet scire. oblitus sum omnia.
scio me ésse servom. nescio etiam id quod scio.
nunc ab trasenna hic turdus lumbricum petit;
pendebit hodie pulcre, ita intendi tenus.

Nic.
Mane dum parumper; iam exeo ad te, Chrysale. —

Chrys.
Vt verba mihi dat, ut nescio quam rem gerat.
servos arcessit intus qui me vinciant.
bene navis agitatur, pulcre haec confertur ratis.
sed conticiscam, nam audio aperiri fores.

Nic.
Constringe tu illi, Artamo, actutum manus.

Chrys.
Quid feci?

Nic.
Impinge pugnum, si muttiverit.
quid hae locuntur litterae?

Chrys.
Quid me rogas?
ut ab illo accepi, ad te obsignatas attuli.

Nic.
Eho tu, ... loquitatusne es gnato meo
male per sermonem, quia mi id aurum reddidit,
et te dixisti id aurum ablaturum tamen
per sycophantiam?

Chrys.
Egone istuc dixi?

Nic.
Ita.

Chrys.
Quis homost qui dicat me dixisse istuc?

Nic.
Tace,
nullus homo dicit: hae tabellae te arguont,
quas tu attulisti. em hae te vinciri iubent.

Chrys.
Aha, Bellorophontem tuos me fecit filius:
egomet tabellas tetuli ut vincirer. sine.

Nic.
Propterea hoc facio, ut suadeas gnato meo
ut pergraecetur tecum, tervenefice.

Chrys.
O stulte, stulte, nescis nunc venire te;

atque in eopse adstas lapide, ut praeco praedicat.

Nic.
Responde: quis me vendit?

Chrys.
Quem di diligunt
adulescens moritur, dum valet sentit sapit.
hunc si ullus deus amaret, plus annis decem,
plus iam viginti mortuom esse oportuit:
terrai ódium ámbulat, iam nil sapit
nec sentit, tantist quantist fungus putidus.

Nic.
Tun terrae me odium esse autumas? abducite hunc
intro atque adstringite ad columnam fortiter.
numquam auferes hinc aurum.

Chrys.
Át qui iam dabis.

Nic.
Dabo?

Chrys.
Atque orabis me quidem ultro ut auferam,
cum illum rescisces criminatorem meum
quanto in periclo et quanta in pernicie siet.
tum libertatem Chrysalo largibere;
ego adeo numquam accipiam.

Nic.
Dic, scelerum caput,
dic, quo in periclo est meus Mnesilochus filius?

Chrys.
Sequere hac me, faxo iam scies.

Nic.
Quo gentium?

Chrys.
Tres unos passus.

Nic.
Vel decem.

Chrys.
Agedum tu, Artamo,
forem hanc pauxillum áperi; placide, ne crepa;
sat est. accede huc tu. viden convivium?

Nic.
Video exadvorsum Pistoclerum et Bacchidem.

Chrys.
Qui sunt in lecto illo altero?

Nic.
Interii miser.

Chrys.
Novistine hominem?

Nic.
Novi.

Chrys.
Dic sodes mihi,
bellan videtur specie mulier?

Nic.
Admodum.

Chrys.
Quid illám, meretricemne esse censes?

Nic.
Quippini?

Chrys.
Frustra es.

Nic.
Quis igitur obsecrost?

Chrys.
Inveneris.
ex me quidem hodie numquam fies certior.

Cleomachvs
Meamne híc Mnesilochus, Nicobuli filius,
per vim ut retineat mulierem? quae haec factiost?

Nic.
Quis illést?

Chrys.
Per tempus hic venit miles mihi.

Cleom.
Non me arbitratur militem, sed mulierem,
qui me meosque non queam defendere.
nam neque Bellona mi umquam neque Mars creduat,
ni illum exanimalem faxo, si convenero,
nive exheredem fecero vitae suae.

Nic.
Chrysale, quis ille est qui minitatur filio?

Chrys.
Vir hic ést illius mulieris quacum accubat.

Nic.
Quid, vir?

Chrys.
Vir, inquam.

Nic.
Nuptanest illa, obsecro?

Chrys.
Scies haúd multo post.

Nic.
Oppido interii miser.

Chrys.
Quid nunc? scelestus tibi videtur Chrysalus?
age nunc vincito me, auscultato filio.
dixin tibi ego illum invénturum te qualis sit?

Nic.
Quid nunc ego faciam?

Chrys.
Iube sis me exsolvi cito;
nam ní ego exsolvor, iam manufesto hominem opprimet.

Cleom.
Nihil est lucri quod me hodie facere mavelim,
quam illum cubantem cum illa opprimere, ambo ut necem.

Chrys.
Audin quae loquitur? quin tu me exsolvi iubes?

Nic.
Exsolvite istum. perii, pertimui miser.

Cleom.
Tum illam, quae corpus publicat volgo suom,
faxo se haud dicat nactam quem derideat.

Chrys.
Pacisci cum illo paulula pecunia
potes.

Nic.
Pacisce ergo, obsecro, quid tibi lubet,
dum ne manifesto hominem opprimat neve enicet.

Cleom.
Nunc nisi ducenti Philippi redduntur mihi,
iam illorum ego animam amborum exsorbebo oppido.

Nic.
Em illuc pacisce, si potes; perge obsecro,
pacisce quid vis.

Chrys.
Ibo et faciam sedulo.
quid clamas?

Cleom.
Vbi erus tuos est?

Chrys.
Nusquam. nescio.
vis tibi ducentos nummos iam promittier,
ut ne clamorem hic facias neu convicium?

Cleom.
Nihil est quod malim.

Chrys.
Atque ut tibi mala multa ingeram?

Cleom.
Tuo arbitratu.

Nic.

Vt subblanditur carnufex.

Chrys.
Pater hic Mnesilochi est; sequere, is promittet tibi.
tu aurum rogato; ceterum verbum sat est.

Nic.
Quid fít?

Chrys.
Ducentis Phílippis rem pepigi.

Nic.
Ah, salus
mea, servavisti me. quam mox dico ‘dabo’?

Chrys.
Roga hunc tu, tu promitte huic.

Nic.
Promitto, roga.

Cleom.
Ducentos nummos aureos Philippós probos
dabin?

Chrys.
‘Dabuntur’ inque. responde.

Nic.
Dabo.

Chrys.
Quid nunc, impure? numquid debetur tibi?
quid illí molestu’s? quid illum morte territas?
et ego te et ille mactámus infortunio.
si tibi est machaera, at nobis veruinast domi:
qua quidem te faciam, si tu me inritaveris,

confossiorem soricina nenia.
iam dudum hercle equidem sentio, suspicio
quae te sollicitet: eum esse cum illa muliere.

Cleom.
Immo est quoque.

Chrys.
Ita me Iuppiter Iuno Ceres
Minerva † Latona Spes Opis Virtus Venus
Castor Polluces Mars Mercurius Hercules
Summanus Sol Saturnus dique omnes ament,
ut ille cum illa neque cubat neque ambulat
neque osculatur neque illud quod dici solet.

Nic.
Vt iurat! servat me ille suis periuriis.

Cleom.
Vbi nunc Mnesilochus ergost?

Chrys.
Rus misit pater.
illa autem in arcem ábiit aedem visere
Minervae. nunc apertast. i, vise estne ibi.

Cleom.
Abeo ad forum igitur.

Chrys.
Vél hercle ín malam crucem.

Cleom.
Hodie exigam aurum hoc?

Chrys.
Exige, ac suspende te:
ne supplicare hunc censeas tibi, nihili homo. —

ille est amotus. sine me (per te, ere, opsecro
deos immortales) ire huc intro ad filium.

Nic.
Quid eo intro ibis?

Chrys.
Vt eum dictis plurumis
castigem, cum haec sic facta ad hunc faciat modum.

Nic.
Immo oro ut facias, Chrysale, et ted opsecro,
cave pársis in eum dicere.

Chrys.
Etiam me mones?
satin est si plura ex me audiet hodie mala,
quam audivit umquam Clinia ex Demetrio? —

Nic.
Lippi illic oculi servos est simillimus:
si non est, nolis esse neque desideres;
si est, abstinere quin attingas non queas.
nam ni illic hodie forte fortuna hic foret,
miles Mnesilochum cum uxore opprimeret sua
atque obtruncaret moechum manufestarium.
nunc quasi ducentis Phílippis emi filium,
quos dare promisi militi: quos non dabo
temere etiam prius quam filium convenero.
numquam edepol quicquam temere credam Chrysalo;
verum lubet etiam mi has perlegere denuo:
aequomst tabellis consignatis credere. —

Chrysalvs
Atrídae duo fratrés cluent fecísse facinus máxumum,
quom Priami patriam Pergamum divina moenitum manu
armis, equis, exercitu atque eximiis bellatoribus
mille cum numero navium decumo anno post subegerunt.

non pedibus termento fuit praeut égo erum expugnabo meum
sine classe sineque exercitu et tanto numero militum.
cepi expugnavi amanti erili filio aurum ab suo patre.
nunc prius quam húc senex venit, libet lámentari dum éxeat.
o Troia, o patria, o Pergamum, o Priame periisti senex,
qui misere male mulcabere quadringéntis Philippis aureis.
nam ego has tabellas obsignatas consignatas quas fero
non sunt tabellae, sed equos quem misere Achivi ligneum.
Epiust Pistoclerus: ab eo haec sumptae; Mnesilochus Sino est
relictus, ellum non in busto Achilli, sed in lecto accubat;
Bacchidem habet secum: ille olim hábuit ignem qui signum daret,
hunc ipsum exurit; ego sum Vlixes, cuius consilio haec gerunt.
tum quae hic sunt scriptae litterae, hoc in equo ínsunt milites
armati atque animati probe. ita res successit mi usque adhuc.
atque hic equos non in arcem, verum in arcam faciet impetum:
exitium excidium exlecebra fiet hic equos hodie auro senis.
nostro seni huic stolido, ei profecto nomen facio ego Ilio;
miles Menelaust, ego Agamemno, ídem Vlixes Lartius,
Mnesilochust Alexander, qui erit exitio rei patriae suae;
is Helenam avexit, cuia causa nunc facio obsidium Ilio.
nam illi ítidem Vlixem audivi, ut ego sum, fuisse et audacem et
malum:
ín dolis ego prénsus sum, ille mendícans paene invéntus interiit,
dum íbi exquirit fata Iliorum; adsímiliter mi hodie óptigit.
vínctus sum, sed dólis me exemi: item se ílle servavít dolis.
Ílio tria fuísse audivi fáta quae illi fórent exitio:
signum ex arce si periisset; alterum etiamst Troili mors;
tertium, cum portae Phrygiae limen superum scinderetur:
paria item tria eis tribus sunt fata nostro huic Ilio.
nam dúdum primo ut díxeram nostró seni mendácium
et de hóspite et de auro ét de lembo, ibi sígnum ex arce iam abstuli.
iam dúo restabant fáta tunc, nec mágis id ceperam óppidum.
post ubi tabellas ad senem detuli, ibi occidi Troilum,
cum censuit Mnesilochum cum uxore esse dudum militis.
íbi vix me exsolvi: íd periclum adsímilo, Vlixem ut praédicant
cógnitum ab Helena esse proditum Hecubae; sed ut olim ille se
blanditiis exemit et persuasit sé ut amitteret,

ítem ego dolis me illo éxtuli e períclo et decepí senem.
post cúm magnifico mílite, urbes vérbis qui inermús capit,
conflixi atque hominem reppuli; dein pugnam conserui seni:
eum ego ádeo uno mendácio devíci, uno ictu extémpulo
cépi spolia. is núnc ducentos númmos Philippos míliti,
quos dáre se promisít, dabit.
nunc álteris etiam ducentis usus est, qui dispensentur
Ílio capto, ut sit mulsum qui triumphent milites.
sed Príamus hic multo illi praestat: non quinquaginta modo,
quadringéntos filios habet átque equidem omnis lectos sine
probro:
eos égo hodie omnis contruncabo duóbus solis ictibus.
nunc Príamo nostro si ést quis emptor, cómptionalém senem
vendam ego, venalem quem habeo, extemplo ubi oppidum
expugnavero.
sed Príamum adstantem eccum ánte portam vídeo. adibo atque
adloquar.

Nicobvlvs
Quóianam vox própe me sonat?

Chrys.
O Nicobule.

Nic.
Quid fit?
quíd quod te misi, écquid egísti?

Chrys.
Rógas? congredere.

Nic.
Gradior.

Chrys.
Optumus sum oratór. ad lacrumas coégi hominem cástigando
maleque dictis, quae quidem quívi comminisci.

Nic.
Quid ait?

C.
Verbum
nullum fecit: lacrumans tacitus auscultabat quae ego loquebar;
tacitus conscripsit tabellas, obsignatas mi has dedit.
tíbi me iussit dare, sed metuo, né idem cantent quod priores.
nosce signum. estne eius?

Nic.
Novi. libet perlegere has.

C.
Perlege.
nunc súperum limen scínditur, nunc ádest exitium Ílio,
turbát equos lepide lígneus.

Nic.
Chrysále, ades, dum ego has pérlego.

Chrys.
Quid mé tibi adesse opus ést?

N.
Volo, ut quod iubeo facias
út scias quae hic scrípta sient.

Chrys.
Níl moror neque scíre volo.

Nic.
Támen ades.

Chrys.
Quid opúst?

Nic.

Taceas:
quód iubeo id faciás.

Chrys.
Adero.

Nic.
Eúge litterás minutas.

Chrys.
Quí quidem videát parum;
vérum, qui satis vídeat, grandes sátis sunt.

Nic.
Animum advórtito igitur.

Chrys.
Nólo inquam.

Nic.
At volo ínquam.

Chrys.
Quid opust?

Nic.
Át enim id quod te iúbeo facias.

Chrys.
Iústumst ut tuós tibi servos tuo árbitratu sérviat.

Nic.
Hoc áge sis nunciam.

C.
Vbi lubet, recita: aúrium operam tíbi dico.

Nic.
Ceraé quidem haud parsit néque stilo;

sed quídquid est, pellégere certumst.
“Patér, ducentos Phílippos quaeso Chrýsalo
da, si esse salvom vis me aut vitalem tibi.”
malum quidem hercle magnum.

Chrys.
Tibi dico.

Nic.
Quid est?

Chrys.
Non prius salutem scripsit?

Nic.
Nusquam sentio.

Chrys.
Non dabis, si sapies; verum si das maxume,
ne ille alium gerulum quaerat, si sapiet, sibi:
nam ego non laturus sum, si iubeas maxume.
sat sic suspectus sum, cum careo noxia.

Nic.
Ausculta porro, dum hoc quod scriptumst perlego.

Chrys.
Inde a principio iam inpudens epistula est.

Nic.
“Pudet prodire me ad te in conspectum, pater:
tantum flagitium te scire audivi meum,
quod cum peregrini cubui uxore militis.”
pol haud derides; nam ducentis aureis
Philippís redemi vitam ex flagitio tuam.

Chrys.
Nihil est illorum quin ego illi dixerim.

Nic.
“Stulte fecisse fateor. sed quaeso, pater,
ne me, in stultitia si deliqui, deseras.
ego animo cupido atque oculis indomitis fui;
persuasumst facere quoius me nunc facti pudet.”
prius té cavisse ergo quám pudere aequom fuit.

Chrys.
Eadem istaec verba dudum illi dixi omnia.

Nic.
“Quaeso ut sat habeas id, pater, quod Chrysalus
me obiurigavit plurumis verbis malis,
et me meliorem fecit praeceptis suis,
ut te ei habere gratiam aequom sit bonam.”

Chrys.
Estne istuc istic scriptum?

Nic.
Em specta, tum scies.

Chrys.
Vt qui deliquit supplex est ultro omnibus.

Nic.
“Nunc si me fas est obsecrare abs te, pater,
da mihi ducentos nummos Philippos, te obsecro.”

Chrys.
Ne unum quidem hercle, si sapis.

Nic.
Sine perlegam.
“ego ius iurandum verbis conceptis dedi,
daturum id me hodie mulieri ante vesperum,
prius quam á me abiret. nunc, pater, ne perierem
cura atque abduce me hinc ab hac quantum potest,

quam propter tantum damni feci et flagiti.
cave tíbi ducenti nummi dividiae fuant;
sescenta tanta reddam, si vivo, tibi.
vale atque haec cura". quid nunc censes, Chrysale?

Chrys.
Nihil ego tibi hodie consili quicquam dabo,
neque ego haud committam ut, si quid peccatum siet,
fecisse dicas de mea sententia.
verum, ut ego opinor, sí ego in istoc sim loco,
dem potius aurum quam illum corrumpi sinam.
duae condiciones sunt: utram tu áccipias vide:
vel ut aurum perdas vel ut amator perieret.
ego neque te iubeo neque veto, neque suadeo.

Nic.
Miseret me illius.

Chrys.
Tuos est, non mirum facis.
si plus perdundum sit, periisse suaviust,
quam illud flagitium volgo dispalescere.

Nic.
Ne ille edepol Ephesi multo mavellem foret,
dum salvos esset, quam revenisset domum.
quid ego istic? quod perdundumst properem perdere.
binos ducentos Philippos iam intus ecferam,
et militi quos dudum promisi miser
et istos. mane istic, iam exeo ad te, Chrysale. —

Chrys.
Fit vasta Troia, scindunt proceres Pergamum.
scivi ego iam dudum fore me exitio Pergamo.
edepol qui me esse dicat cruciatu malo
dignum, ne ego cum íllo pignus haud ausim dare;
tantas turbellas facio. sed crepuit foris:

ecfertur praeda ex Troia. taceam nunciam.

Nic.
Cape hoc tibi aurum, Chrysale, i, fer filio.
ego ad forum autem hinc ibo, ut solvam militi.

Chrys.
Non equidem accipiam. proin tu quaeras qui ferat.
nolo ego mihi credi.

Nic.
Cape vero, odiose facis.

Chrys.
Non equidem capiam.

Nic.
At quaeso.

C.
Dico ut res se habet.

Nic.
Morare.

Chrys.
Nolo, inquam, aurum concredi mihi.
vel da aliquem qui servet me.

Nic.
Ohe, odiose facis.

Chrys.
Cedo, sí necesse est.

Nic.
Cura hoc. iam égo huc revenero. —

Chrys.

Curatum est — esse te senem miserrumum.
hoc est incepta efficere pulcre: bellule
mi evenit, ut ovans praeda onustus incederem;
salute nostra atque urbe capta per dolum
domum reduco íntegrum omnem exercitum.
sed, spectatores, vos nunc ne miremini
quod non triumpho: pervolgatum est, nil moror;
verum tamen accipientur mulso milites.
nunc hanc praedam omnem iam ad quaestorem deferam. —

Philoxenvs
Quam mágis in pectore meó foveo quas méus filius turbás turbet,
quam se ád vitam et quos ád mores praecípitem inscitus capéssat,
magis cúrae est magisque adfórmido, ne is péreat neu corrúmpatur.
scio, fúi ego illa aetate ét feci illa omnía, sed more modésto;
neque plácitant mores quíbus video volgo ín gnatos essé parentes:
duxi, hábui scortum, pótavi, dedi, donavi, sed enim íd raro.
ego dáre me meo gnato ínstitui, ut animo óbsequium sumére possit;
aequom ésse puto, sed nimis nolo desídiae ei dare lúdum.
nunc Mnésilochum, quod mándavi,
viso écquid eum ad virtútem aut ad
frugem ópera sua compúlerit, sic
ut eúm, si convenít, scio fe-
cisse: eóst ingenio nátus.

ACT V.

Nicobvlvs
Quicúmque ubi ubi sunt, quí fuerunt quiqué futuri sunt pósthac
stultí, stolidi, fatuí, fungi, bardí, blenni, buccónes,
solús ego omnis longe ántideo
stultítia et moribus índoctis.
perií, pudet: hocine me aétatis
ludós bis factum esse índigne?
magis quam íd reputo, tam mágis uror
quae méus filius turbávit.
perdítus sum atque eradícatus
sum, omníbus exemplis éxcrucior.
omnía me mala conséctantur,
omníbus exitiis ínterii.
Chrysálus med hodie láceravit,
Chrysálus me miserum spóliavit:
is mé scelus auro usque áttondit
dolis dóctis indoctum, út lubitumst.
ita míles memorat méretricem esse
eam quam ílle uxorem esse áiebat,
omníaque ut quidque actum est memoravit,
eam síbi hunc annúm condúctam,
relicúom id auri factúm quod ego ei
stultíssimus homo promísissem: hoc,
hoc ést quo cor peracéscit;
hoc ést demum quod pércrucior,
me hoc aétatis ludíficari,
immo edepol sic ludos factum
canó capite atque albá barba
miserúm me auro esse emúnctum.
perii, hóc servom meum nón nauci facere ésse ausum! atque ego, si álibi
plus pérdiderim, minus aégre habeam minusque íd mihi damno dúcam.

Phil.
Certo híc prope me mihi néscio quis loqui vísust; sed quem vídeo? hic quidémst pater Mnesilochi.

N.
Eúge, socium aerúmnae et mei mali vídeo.
Philoxéne, salve.

Phil.
Et tu. unde ágis?

Nic.
Vnde homo miser átque infortunátus.

P.
At pól ego ibi sum, esse ubi míserum hominem decet átque infortunátum.

Nic.
Igitúr pari fortuna, aétate ut sumus, útimur.

Phil.
Sic est. séd tu,
quíd tibist?

Nic.
Pól mihi par, idem est quód tibi.

Phil.
Númquid nam ad fílium haec aégritudo áttinet?

Nic.
Ádmodum.

Phil.
Idém mihi mórbus in péctorest.

Nic.

Át mihi Chrýsalus óptumus homo
pérdidit fílium, me átque rem omném meam.

Phil.
Quíd tibi ex fílio nam, óbsecro, aegrést?

Nic.
Scies:
íd, perit cúm tuo: ambo aéque amicás habent.

Phil.
Qui scís?

Nic.

Vidi

Phil.
Eí mihi, dísperii.

Nic.
Quíd dubitamus púltare atque huc évocare ambós foras?

Phil.
Haud moror.

Nic.
Heus Bacchis, iube sis actutum aperiri fores,
nisi mavoltis fores et postes comminui securibus.

Bacchis
Quis sónitu ac tumúltu tantó nominát me atque púltat aedes?

Nic.
Ego átque hic.

Bacch.
Quid hóc est negóti nam, amábo?
quis hás huc ovís adegit?

Nic.
Ovís nos vocánt pessumaé.

Soror
Pastor hárum
dormít, quom haec eunt síc a pecú balitántes.

Bacch.
At pól nitent, haud sórdidae vidéntur ambae.

Sor.
Attonsae haé quidem ámbae usque súnt.

Phil.
Vt vidéntur
derídere nós.

Nic.
Sine suo úsque arbitrátu.

Bacch.
Rerín ter in annó tu has tónsitari?

Sor.
Pol hódie altera iám bis detónsa certo est.

Bacch.
Vetulaé sunt, † thimiame.

Sor.
At bonás fuisse crédo.

Bacch.
Vidén limulís, obsecró, ut intuéntur?

Sor.
Ecástor sine ómni arbitrór malitia ésse.

Phil.

Merito hóc nobis fít, qui quidem húc venerímus.

Bacch.
Cogántur quidem íntro.

Sor.
Haud sció quid eo opús sit,
quae néc lac nec lánam ullam habént. sic sine ástent.
exsólvere quánti fuére, omnis frúctus
iam illís decidít. non vidés, ut palántes
solaé liberaé
grasséntur? quin aetate crédo esse mútas:
ne bálant quidém, quom a pecú cetero ábsunt.
stultae átque haud malaé videntur.

Sor.
Revórtamur íntro, sorór.

Nic.
Ilico ámbae
manéte: haec ovés volunt vos.

Sor.
Pródigium hoc quidémst: humana nós voce appellánt oves.

Nic.
Haec oves vobis malam rem magnam, quam debent, dabunt.

Bacch.
Si quam debes, te condono: tibi habe, numquam abs te petam.
sed quid est quapropter nobis vos malum minitamini?

Phil.
Quia nostros agnos conclusos istic esse aiunt duos.

Nic.
Et praeter eos agnos meus est istic clam mordax canis:
qui nisi nobis producuntur iam atque emittuntur foras,

arietes truces nos erimus, iam in vos incursabimus.

B.
Soror, ést quod te volo sécreto.

S.
Eho, amábo.

N.
Quo illaec ábeunt?

Bacch.
Senem illúm tibi dedo ultériorem, lepide út lenitum réddas;
ego ad húnc iratum adgrédiar, si possúmus nos hos intro ínlicere huc.

S.
Meum pénsum ego lepide accúrabo, quamquam ódiost mortem ampléxari.

B.
Facito út facias.

S.
Taceás. tu tuom facito: égo quod dixi haud mútabo.

Nic.
Quid illaéc illic in cónsilio duae sécreto consúltant?

Phil.
Quid aís tu, homo?

Nic.
Quid mé vis?

Phil.
Pudet dícere me tibi quíddam.

N.

Quid est quód pudeat?

P.
Sed amíco homini tibi quód volo credere cértumst.
nihilí sum.

Nic.
Istuc iam prídem scio. sed quí nihili es? id mémora.

Phil.
Tactús sum vehementér visco;
cor stímulo foditur.

Nic.
Pól tibi multo
aequíus est coxendícem.
sed quíd istuc est? etsí iam ego ipsus quid sít probe scire pútó me;
verum aúdire etiam ex té studeo.

Phil.
Viden hánc?

Nic.
Video.

Phil.
Haud mala est múlier.

Nic.
Pol véro ista mala et tú nihili.

Phil.
Quid múlta? ego amo.

Nic.
An amas?

Phil.

ναὶ γὰρ.

Nic.
Tun, hómo putide, amatór istac fieri aétate audes?

Phil.
Quí non?

Nic.
Quia flágitium est.

Phil.
Quid opúst verbis? meo fílio non sum irátus,
neque té tuost aequom esse íratum: si amánt, sapienter fáciunt.

Bacch.
Sequere hác.

Nic.
Eunt eccas tándem
probri pérlecebrae et persuástrices.
quid núnc? etiam reddítis nobis
filiós et servom? an ego éxperior
tecúm vim maiorem?

Phil.
Ábin hinc?
non hómo tu quidem es, qui istóc pacto tam lépidam inlepide
appélles.

Bacch.
Senex óptime quantumst ín terra, sine me hóc exorare ábs te,
ut istúc delictum désistas tanto ópere ire oppugnátum.

Nic.
Ni abeás, quamquam tu bélla es,
malum tíbi magnum dabo iám.

Bacch.
Patiar,
non métuo, ne quid míhi doleat
quod férias.

Nic.
Vt blandíloquast!
ei míhi, metuo.

Sor.
Hic magis tránquillust.

Bacch.
I hac mécum intro atque ibi, sí quid vis,
filiúm concastigáto.

N.
Abin á me, scelus?

B.
Sine, méa pietas, te exorem.

N.
Exores tú me?

S.
Ego quídem ab hoc certe exórabo.

P.
Immo ego te óro, ut me intro abdúcas.

Sor.
Lepidúm te.

Phil.
At scin quo pácto me ad te intro ábducas?

Sor.

Mecum út sis.

Phil.
Omnía quae cupio cómmemoras.

Nic.
Vidi égo nequam homines, vérum te
nemínem deteriorem.

Phil.
Íta sum.

Bacch.
I hac mécum intro, ubi tibi sít lepide victíbus, vino atque unguéntis.

Nic.
Satis, sátis iam vostrist cónvivi:
me níl paenitet ut sim ácceptus:
quadringéntis Philippis fílius me et
Chrysálus circumduxérunt.
quem quídem ego ut non excrúciem,
altérum tantum auri nón meream.

Bacch.
Quid tándem, si dimídium auri
reddítur, in hac mecum íntro? atque ut
eis délicta ignoscás.

Phil.
Faciet.

Nic.
Minime, nolo. nil móror, sine sic.
malo íllos ulcisci ámbo.

Phil.
Etiám tu, homo nihili? quód di dant boni cáve culpa tua amissis:
dimídium auri datur: áccipias, potésque et scortum accúmbas.

Nic.
Egon úbi filius corrúmpatur meus, íbi potem?

Phil.
Potandumst.

Nic.
Age iam, íd ut ut est, étsi est dédecori, patiár, facere inducam ánimum:
egon, cum haéc cum illo accubet, ínspectem?

Bacch.
Immo equidém pol tecum accúmbam,
te amábo et te amplexábor.

Nic.
Caput prúrit, perii, víx negito.

Bacch.
Non tíbi venit in mentém, amabo,
si dúm vivas tibi béne facias
tam pól id quidem esse haud perlónginquom,
neque, si hóc hodie amissís, post in
morte éventurum esse úmquam?

N.
Quid agó?

P.
Quid agas? rogitás etiam?

N.
Libet ét metuo.

B.
Quid métuis?

Nic.

Ne obnóxius filio sim ét servo.

Bacch.
Mel méum, amabo, etsi haec fíunt,
tuost: únde illum sumére censes, nisi quód tute illi déderis?
hanc véniam illis sine te éxorem.

Nic.
Vt terebrát! satin offirmátum
quod míhi erat, id me exórat?
tua sum ópera et propter te ímprobior.

Bacch.
Nemínis quam mea mavéllem.
satin égo istuc habeo fírmatum?

Nic.
Quod sémel dixi haud mutábo.

Bacch.
It diés, ite intro accúbitum,
filií vos exspectánt intus.

Nic.
Quam quídem actutum emoriámur.

S.
Vespér hic est, sequimini.

N.
Dúcite nos quo lúbet tamquam quidem addíctos.

Bacch.
Lepide ípsi hi sunt captí, suis qui filiís fecere insídias.

Grex
Hí senes nisi fuíssent nihili iam índe ab adulescéntia,
non hodie hoc tantum flagitium facerent canis capitibus;

neque adeo haec faceremus, ni antehac vidissemus fieri,
ut apud lenones rivales filiis fierent patres.
spectatores, vos valere volumus et clare adplaudere.

CAPTIVI

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PROLOGVS

Hos quos videtis stare hic captivos duos,
†illi qui astant, hi stant ambo, non sedent;
hoc vos mihi testes estis me verum loqui.
senex qui hic habitat Hegio est huius pater.
sed is quo pacto serviat suo sibi patri,
id ego hic apud vos proloquar, si operam datis.
seni huic fuerunt filii nati duo;
alterum quadrimum puerum servos surpuit
eumque hínc profugiens vendidit in Alide
patri huius. iam hoc tenetis? ... optume est.
negát hercle ille ultimus. accedito.
si non ubi sedeas locus est, est ubi ambules,
quando histrionem cogis mendicarier.
ego me tua causa, ne erres, non rupturus sum.
vos qui potestis ope vestra censerier,
accipite relicuom: alieno uti nil moror.
fugitivos ille, ut dixeram ante, huius patri
domo quém profugiens dominum abstulerat vendidit.
is postquam hunc emit, dedit eum huic gnato suo
peculiarem, quia quasi una aetas erat.
hic nunc domi sérvit suo patri, nec scit pater;
enim véro di nos quasi pilas homines habent.
rationem habetis, quo modo unum amiserit.
postquam belligerant Aetoli cum Aleis,
ut fit in bello, capitur alter filius:
medicus Menarchus emit ibidem in Alide.
coepit captivos commercari hic Aleos,
si quem reperire possit qui mutet suom,
illum captivom: hunc suom esse nescit, qui domist.
et quoniam heri indaudivit, de summo loco
summoque genere captum esse equitem Aleum,
nil pretio parsit, filio dum parceret:
reconciliare ut facilius posset domum,
emít hosce e praeda ambos de quaestoribus.

hisce autem inter sese hunc confinxerunt dolum,
quo pacto hic servos suom erum hinc amittat domum.
itaque inter se commutant vestem et nomina;
illic vocatur Philocrates, hic Tyndarus:
huius íllic, hic illius hodie fert imaginem.
et hic hódie expediet hanc docte fallaciam,
et suom erum faciet libertatis compotem,
eodemque pacto fratrem servabit suom
reducemque faciet liberum in patriam ad patrem,
imprudens: itidem ut saepe iam in multis locis
plus insciens quis fecit quam prudens boni.
sed inscientes sua sibi fallacia
ita compararunt et confinxerunt dolum
itaque hi commenti, de sua sententia
ut in sérvitute hic ad suom maneat patrem:
ita nunc ignorans suo sibi servit patri;
homunculi quanti sunt, quom recogito!
haec res agetur nobis, vobis fabula.
sed etiam est, paucis vos quod monitos voluerim.
profecto expediet fabulae huic operam dare.
non pertractate facta est neque item ut ceterae:
neque spurcidici insunt versus, immemorabiles;
hic neque periurus leno est nec meretrix mala
neque miles gloriosus; ne vereamini,
quia bellum Aetolis esse dixi cum Aleis:
foris íllic extra scaenam fient proelia.
nam hoc paene iniquomst, comico choragio
conari desubito agere nos tragoediam.
proin si quis pugnam expectat, litis contrahat:
valentiorem nactus adversarium
si erit, ego faciam ut pugnam inspectet non bonam,
adeo ut spectare postea omnis oderit.
abeo. valete, iudices iustissimi
domi duellique duellatores optumi.

ACT I.

Ergasilvs
Iuventus nomen indidit Scorto mihi,
eo quía invocatus soleo esse in convivio.
scio absúrde dictum hoc derisores dicere,
at ego aio recte. nam scortum in convivio
sibi amator, talos quom iacit, scortum invocat.
estne invocatum an non est? est planissume;
verum hercle vero nos parasiti planius,
quos numquam quisquam neque vocat neque invocat.
quasi mures semper edimus alienum cibum;
ubi res prolatae sunt, quom rus homines eunt,
simul prolatae res sunt nostris dentibus.
quasi, cum caletur, cocleae in occulto latent,
suo sibi suco vivont, ros si non cadit,
item parasiti rebus prolatis latent
in occúlto miseri, victitant suco suo,
dum ruri rurant homines quos ligurriant.
prolatis rebus parasiti venatici
sumus, quando res redierunt, molossici
odiosicique et multum incommodestici.
et hic quidem hercle, nisi qui colaphos perpeti
potest parasitus frangique aulas in caput,
vel ire extra portam Trigeminam ad saccum licet.
quod mihi ne eveniat, non nullum periculum est.
nam postquam meus rex est potitus hostium —
ita nunc belligerant Aetoli cum Aleis;
nam Aetolia haec est, illic est captus in Alide,
Philopolemus, huius Hegionis filius
senis, qui hic habitat, quae aedes lamentariae
mihi sunt, quas quotienscumque conspicio fleo;
nunc hic occepit quaestum hunc fili gratia
inhonestum et maxime alienum ingenio suo:
homines captivos commercatur, si queat
aliquem invenire, suom qui mutet filium.

quod quidem ego nimis quam cupio ... ut impetret;
nam ni illum recipit, nihil est quo me recipiam.
nam nulla est spes iuventútis, sese omnis amant;
ille démum antiquis est adulescens moribus,
cuius númquam voltum tranquillavi gratiis.
condigne pater est eius moratus moribus.
nunc ad eum pergam. sed aperitur ostium,
unde sáturitate saepe ego exii ebrius.

Hegio
Advorte animum sis tu: istos captivos duos,
heri quos emi de praeda a quaestoribus,
eis indito catenas singularias
istas, maiores, quibus sunt iuncti, demito;
sinito ambulare, si foris si intus volent,
sed uti adserventur magna diligentia.
liber captivos avis ferae consimilis est:
semel fugiendi si data est occasio,
satis est, numquam postilla possis prendere.

Lorarivs
Omnes profecto liberi lubentius
sumus quám servimus.

Heg.
Non videre ita tu quidem.

Lor.
Si non est quod dem, mene vis dem ipse — in pedes?

Heg.
Si dederis, erit extemplo mihi quod dem tibi.

Lor.
Avis mé ferae consimilem faciam, ut praedicas.

Heg.
Ita ut dícis: nam si faxis, te in caveam dabo.

sed satis verborumst. cura quae iussi atque abi.
ego ibo ad fratrem ad alios captivos meos,
visam ne nocte hac quippiam turbaverint.
inde mé continuo recipiam rursum domum.

Erg.
Aegre est mi, hunc facere quaestum carcerarium
propter sui gnati miseriam miserum senem.
sed si ullo pacto ille huc conciliari potest,
vel carnificinam hunc facere possum perpeti.

Heg.
Quis hic lóquitur?

Erg.
Ego, qui tuo maerore maceror,
macesco, consenesco et tabesco miser;
ossa atque pellis sum miser a macritudine;
neque umquam quicquam me iuvat quod edo domi:
foris aliquantillum etiam quod gusto, id beat.

Heg.
Ergasile, salve.

Erg.
Di te bene ament, Hegio.

Heg.
Ne fle.

Erg.
Egone illum non fleam? égon non defleam
Talem adulescentem?

Heg.
Semper sensi, filio
meo te ésse amicum, et illum intellexi tibi.

Erg.
Tum denique homines nostra intellegimus bona,
quom quae in potestate habuimus, ea amisimus.
ego, postquam gnatus tuos potitust hostium,
expertus quanti fuerit nunc desidero.

Heg.
Alienus cum eius incommodum tam aegre feras,
quid me patrem par facerest, cui ille est unicus?

Erg.
Alienus ego? alienus illi? aha, Hegio,
numquam istuc dixis neque animum induxis tuom;
tibi ille únicust, mi etiam unico magis unicus.

Heg.
Laudo, malum cum amici tuom ducis malum.
nunc habe bonum animum.

Erg.
Eheu, huic illud dolet,
quia nunc remissus est edendi exercitus.

Heg.
Nullumne interea nactu's, qui posset tibi
remissum quem dixti imperare exercitum?

Erg.
Quid credis? fugitant omnes hanc provinciam,
quoi optigerat postquam captust Philopolemus tuos.

Heg.
Non pol mirandum est fugitare hanc provinciam.
multis et multigeneribus opus est tibi
militibus: primumdum opus est Pistorensibus;
eorum sunt aliquot genera Pistorensium:
opus Pániceis est, opus Placentinis quoque;
opus Turdetanis, opust Ficedulensibus;

iam maritumi omnes milites opus sunt tibi.

Erg.
Vt saepe summa ingenia in occulto latent;
hic qualis imperator nunc privatus est.

Heg.
Habe modo bonum animum, nam illum confido domum
in his diebus me reconciliassere.
nam eccum hic captivom adulescentem intus Aleum,
prognatum genere summo et summis ditiis:
hoc illum me mutare confido pote.

Erg.
Ita di deaeque faxint. sed num quo foras
vocatus es ad cenam?

Heg.
Nusquam, quod sciam.
sed quid tu id quaeris?

Erg.
Quia mi est natalis dies;
propterea te vocari ad te ad cenam volo.

Heg.
Facete dictum. sed si pauxillo potes
contentus esse.

Erg.
Ne perpauxillum modo,
nam istoc me assiduo victu delecto domi;
age sis, roga emptum: nisi qui meliorem adferet
quae mi atque amicis placeat condicio magis,
quasi fundum vendam, meis me addicam legibus.

Heg.
Profundum vendis tu quidem, haud fundum, mihi.

sed si venturu’s, temperi.

Erg.
Em, vel iam otium est.

Heg.
I modo, venare leporem: nunc irim tenes;
nam meus scruposam victus commetat viam.

Erg.
Numquam istoc vinces me, Hegio, ne postules:
cum calceatis dentibus veniam tamen.

Heg.
Asper meus victus sane est.

Erg.
Sentisne essitas?

Heg.
Terrestris cena est.

Erg.
Sus terrestris bestia est.

Heg.
Multis holeribus.

Erg.
Curato aegrotos domi.
numquid vis?

Heg.
Venias temperi.

Erg.
Memorem mones. —

Heg.

Ibo intro atque intus subducam ratiunculam,
quantillum argenti mi ápud trapezitam siet.
ad fratrem, quo ire dixeram, mox ivero. —

ACT II.

Lorarii
Si di ímmortales íd voluerunt, vós hanc aerumnam éxsequi,
decét id pati animo aéquo: si id faciétis, levior lábos erit.
domi fuístis, credo, líberi:
nunc servitus si evenit, ei vos morigerari mos bonust
et erili imperio eamque ingeniis vostris lenem reddere.
indigna digna habenda sunt, erus quae facit.

Captivi
Oh oh oh.

Lor.
Éiulatione haud opus est, oculis haud lacrimantibus:
in ré mala animo sí bono utare, ádiuvat.

Tyndarvs
At nós pudet, quia cúm catenis súmus.

Lor.
At pigeat póstea
nostrum erum, si vos éximat vínculis,
aút solutós sinat, quós argento émerit.

Tynd.
Quid a nóbis metuit? scímus nos
nóstrum officiúm quod est, sí solutós sinat.

Lor.
Át fugam fíngitis: séntio quam rem ágitis.

Philocrates
Nós fugiamus? quó fugiamus?

L.
In patriam.

P.
Apage, haud nós id deceat,
fúgitivos imitári.

Lor.
Immo edepol, si érit occasio, haúd dehortor.

Tynd.
Únum exoráre vos sínite nos.

Lor.
Quídnam id est?

Tynd.
Út sine hisce arbitris
átque vobis nobis détis lócum loquendi.

Lor.
Fíat. abscédite hinc: nós concedámus huc.
séd brevem orátionem íncipisse.

Tynd.
Em istúc mihi certum erat. cóncede huc.

Lor.
Abíte ab ístis.

Tynd.
Obnóxii ámbo
vóbis sumus própter hanc rém, quom quae vólumus nos
copia est † ea facitis nos compotes.

Phil.
Sécede huc núnciam, sí videtúr, procul,
ne arbitri dicta nostra arbitrari queant
neu permanet palam haec nostra fallacia.
nam doli non doli sunt, nisi astu colas,
sed malum maxumum, si id palam provenit.

nam sí erus mihi es tu átque ego me túom esse servom assímulo,
tamen víso opust, cauto est opus, ut hoc sóbrie sineque árbitris
accúrate agátur, docte ét diligénter;
tanta íncepta rés est: haud sómniculóse hoc
agéndum est.

Tynd.
Ero út me volés esse.

Phil.
Spéro.

Tynd.
Nam tú nunc vidés pro tuó caro cápite
carum ófferre mé meum capút vilitáti.

Phil.
Scio.

Tynd.
At scíre memento, quándo id quód voles habébis;
nam fére maxima pars mórem hunc hominés habent: quod síbi volunt,
dum id ímpetrant, boní sunt;
sed íd ubi iam penes sése habent,
éx bonis péssimi et fraúdulentíssimi
fíunt: nunc út mihi té volo esse aútumo.
quód tibi suádeam, suádeam meó patri.

Phil.
Pól ego si te aúdeam, meúm patrem nóminem:
nám secundúm patrem tu és pater próximus.

Tynd.
Aúdio.

Phil.
Et proptérea saepiús te uti memíneris moneo:

non ego erus tibi, sed servos sum; nunc obsecro te hoc unum —
quoniam nobis di immortales animum ostenderunt suom,
ut qui erum me tibi fuisse atque esse conservom velint,
quom antehac pro iure imperitabam meo, nunc te oro per precem —
per fortunam incertam et per mei te erga bonitatem patris,
perque consérvitium commune, quód hostica evenit manu,
ne me secus honore honestes quam quom servibas mihi,
atque ut qui fueris et qui nunc sis meminisse ut memineris.

Tynd.
Scio quidem me te esse nunc et te esse me.

Phil.
Em istuc si potes
memoriter meminisse, inest spes nobis ín hac astutia.

Hegio
Iam ego revertar intro, si ex his quae volo exquisivero.
ubi sunt isti quos ante aedis iussi huc produci foras?

Phil.
Edepol tibi ne in quaestione essemus cautum intellego,
ita vinclis custodiisque circum moeniti sumus.

Heg.
Qui cavet ne decipiatur, vix cavet, cum etiam cavet;
etiam cum cavisse ratus est, saepe is cautor captus est.
an vero non iusta causa est, ut vos servem sedulo,
quos tam grandi sim mercatus praesenti pecunia?

Phil.
Neque pol tibi nos, quia nos servas, aequomst vitio vortere,
neque te nobis, sí abeamus hinc, si fuat occasio.

Heg.
Vt vos hic, itidem illic apud vos meus servatur filius.

Phil.

Captus est?

Heg.
Ita.

Phil.
Non igitur nos soli ignavi fuimus.

Heg.
Secede huc. nam sunt quae éx te solo scitari volo.
quarum rerum te falsilocum mi esse nolo.

Phil.
Non ero
quod sciam. si quid nescibo, id nescium tradam tibi.

Tynd.
Nunc senex est in tostrina, nunc iam cultros attinet.
ne id quidem, involucrum inicere, voluit, vestem ut ne inquinet.
sed utrum strictimne adtonsurum dicam esse an per pectinem,
nescio; verum, si frugist, usque admutilabit probe.

Heg.
Quid tu? servosne esse an liber mavelis, memora mihi.

Phil.
Proxumum quod sit bono quodque a malo longissume,
id volo; quamquam non multum fuit molesta servitus,
nec mihi secus erat quam si essem familiaris filius.

Tynd.
Eugepae, Thalem talento non emam Milesium,
nam ad sapientiam huius ... nimius nugator fuit.
ut facete orationem ad servitutem contulit.

Heg.
Quo de genere natust illic Philocrates?

Phil.
Polyplusio:
quod genus illi est unum pollens atque honoratissumum.

H.
Quid ipsus hic? quo honore est illic?

P.
Summo, atque ab summis viris.

Heg.
Tum igitur ei cum in Aleis tanta gratia est, ut praedicas,
quid divitiae, suntne opimae?

Phil.
Vnde excoquat sebum senex.

Heg.
Quid pater, vivitne?

Phil.
Vivom, cum inde abimus, liquimus;
nunc vivatne necne, id Orcum scire oportet scilicet.

Tynd.
Salva res est, philosophatur quoque iam, non mendax modo est.

Heg.
Quid erat ei nomen?

Phil.
Thensaurochrysonicochrysides.

Heg.
Videlicet propter divitias inditum id nomen quasi est.

Phil.
Immo edepol propter avaritiam ipsius atque audaciam.

nam ille quidem Theodoromedes fuit germano nomine.

Heg.
Quid tu ais? tenaxne pater est eius?

Phil.
Immo edepol pertinax;
quin etiam ut magis nóscas: Genio suo ubi quando sacrificat,
ad rem divinam quibus est opus, Samiis vasis utitur,
ne ipse Genius surripiat: proinde aliis ut credat vide.

Heg.
Sequere hac me igitur. eadem ego ex hoc quae volo exquaesivero.
Philocrates, hic fecit, hominem frugi ut facere oportuit.
nám ego ex hoc quo genere gnatus sis scio, hic fassust mihi;
haec tu eadem si confiteri vis, tua ex re feceris:
quae tamen scio scire me ex hoc.

Tynd.
Fecit officium hic suom,
cum tibi est confessus verum, quamquam volui sedulo
meam nobilitatem occultare et genus et divitias meas,
Hegio; nunc quando patriam et libertatem perdidi,
non ego istúnc me potius quam te metuere aequom censeo.
vis hostilis cum istoc fecit meas opes aequabiles;
memini, cum dicto haud audebat: facto nunc laedat licet.
sed viden? fortuna humana fingit artatque ut lubet:
me, qui liber fueram, servom fecit, e summo infimum;
qui imperare insueram, nunc alterius imperio obsequor.
et quidem si, proinde ut ipse fui imperator familiae,
habeam dominum, non verear ne iniuste aut graviter mi imperet.
Hegio, hoc te monitum, nisi forte ipse non vis, voluerim.

Heg.
Loquere audacter.

Tynd.
Tam ego fui ante liber quam gnatus tuos,

tam mihi quam illi libertatem hostilis eripuit manus,
tam ille apud nos servit, quam ego nunc hic apud te servio.
est profecto deus, qui quae nos gerimus auditque et videt:
is, uti tu me hic habueris, proinde illum illic curaverit;
bene merenti bene profuerit, male merenti par erit.
quam tu filium tuom, tam páter me meus desiderat.

Heg.
Memini ego istuc. sed faterin eadem quae hic fassust mihi?

Tynd.
Ego patri meo esse fateor summas divitias domi
meque summo genere gnatum. sed te optestor, Hegio,
ne tuom animum avariorem faxint divitiae meae:
ne patri, tam étsi sum unicus, decere videatur magis,
me saturum servire apud te sumptu et vestitu tuo
potius quam illi, ubi minime honestumst, mendicantem vivere.

Heg.
Ego virtute deum et maiorum nostrum dives sum satis.
non ego ómnino lucrum omne esse utile homini existimo:
scio ego, multos iam lucrum lutulentos homines reddidit;
est etiam ubi profecto damnum praestet facere quam lucrum.
odi ego aurum: multa multis saepe suasit perperam.
nunc hoc animum advorte, ut ea quae sentio pariter scias.
filius meus illic apud vos servit captus Alide:
eum si reddis mihi, praeterea únum nummum ne duis;
et te et hunc amittam hinc. alio pacto abire non potes.

Tynd.
Optumum atque aequissumum oras optumusque hominum es homo.
sed is privatam servitutem servit illi an publicam?

Heg.
Privatam medici Menarchi.

Tynd.
Pol is quidem huius est cliens.

tam hoc quidem tibi in proclivi quam imber est quando pluit.

Heg.
Fac is homo ut redimatur.

Tynd.
Faciam. sed te id oro, Hegio —

Heg.
Quid vis, dum ab re ne quid ores, faciam.

Tynd.
Ausculta, tum scies.
ego me amitti, donicum ille huc redierit, non postulo.
verum quaeso ut aestumatum hunc mihi des, quem mittam ad patrem,
ut is homo redimatur illi.

Heg.
Immo alium potius misero
hinc, ubi erunt indutiae, illuc, tuom qui conveniat patrem,
qui tua quae tu iusseris mandata ita út velis perferat.

Tynd.
At nihil est ignotum ad illum mittere: operam luseris.
hunc mitte, hic transactum reddet omne, si illuc venerit.
nec quemquam fideliorem neque cui plus credat potes
mittere ad eum nec qui magis sit servos ex sententia,
neque adeo cui suom concredat filium hodie audacius.
ne vereare, meo periclo húius ego experiar fidem,
fretus ingenio eius, quod me ésse scit erga se benevolum.

Heg.
Mittam equidem istunc aestumatum tua fide, si vis.

Tynd.
Volo;
quam citissime potest, tam hoc cedere ad factum volo.

Heg.
Num quae causa est quin, si ille huc non redeat, viginti minas
mihi des pro illo?

Tynd.
Optuma immo.

Heg.
Solvite istum nunciam,
atque utrumque.

Tynd.
Di tibi omnis omnia optata offerant,
cum me tanto honore honestas cumque ex vinclis eximis.
hoc quidem haud molestumst, iam quod collus collari caret.

Heg.
Quod bonis bene fit beneficium, gratia ea gravida est bonis.
nunc tu illum si illo es missurus, dice monstra praecipe
quae ad patrem vis nuntiari. vin vocem huc ad te?

Tynd.
Voca.

Heg.
Quae res bene vortat mihi meoque filio
vobisque, volt te novos erus operam dare
tuo veteri domino, quod is velit, fideliter.
nam ego te aestumatum huíc dedi viginti minis,
hic autem té ait mittere hinc velle ad patrem,
meum ut illic redimat filium, mutatio
inter me atque illum ut nostris fiat filiis.

Phil.
Vtroque vorsum rectumst ingenium meum,
ad te atque ad illum; pro rota me uti licet:
vel ego huc vel illuc vortar, quo imperabitis.

Heg.
Tute tibi tuopte ingenio prodes plurumum,
cum servitutem íta fers ut ferri decet.
sequere. em tibi hominem.

Tynd.
Gratiám habeo tibi,
quom copiam istam mi et potestatem facis,
ut ego ad parentes hunc remittam nuntium,
qui me quid rerum hic agitem et quid fieri velim
patri meo, ordine omnem rem, illuc perferat.
nunc ita convenit inter me atque hunc, Tyndare,
ut te aestumatum in Alidem mittam ad patrem,
si non rebitas huc, ut viginti minas
dem pro te.

Phil.
Recte convenisse sentio.
nam pater expectat aut me aut aliquem nuntium,
qui hinc ad se veniat.

Tynd.
Ergo animum advortas volo
quae nuntiare hinc te volo in patriam ad patrem.

Phil.
Phílocrates, ut adhuc locorum feci, faciam sedulo,
ut potissimum quod in rem recte conducat tuam,
id petam idque persequar corde et animo atque viribus.

Tynd.
Facis ita ut te facere oportet. nunc animum advortas volo:
omnium primum salutem dicito matri et patri
et cognatis et si quem alium benevolentem videris;
me hic valere et servitutem servire huic homini optumo,
qui me honore honestiorem semper fecit et facit.

Phil.

Istuc ne praecipias, facile memoria memini tamen.

Tynd.
Nam equidem, nisi quod custodem habeo, liberum me esse arbitror.
dicito patri, quo pacto mihi cum hoc convenerit
de huius filio.

Phil.
Quae memini, mora mera est monerier.

Tynd.
Vt eum redimat et remittat nostrum huc amborum vicem.

Phil.
Meminero.

H.
At quamprimum pote: istuc in rem utriquest maxime.

Phil.
Non tuom tu magis videre quam ille suom gnatum cupit.

Heg.
Meus mihi, suos cuique est carus.

Phil.
Numquid aliud vis patri
nuntiari?

Tynd.
Me hic valere et (tute audacter dicito,
Tyndare) inter nos fuisse ingenio haud discordabili,
neque te commeruisse culpam (neque me adversatum tibi)
beneque ero gessisse morem in tantis aerumnis tamen;
neque med umquam deseruisse te neque factis neque fide,
rebus in dubiis egenis. haec pater quando sciet,
Tyndare, ut fueris animatus erga suom gnatum atque se,
numquam erit tam avarus, quin te gratiis emittat manu †

et mea opera, si hinc rebito, faciam ut faciat facilius.
nam tua opera et comitate et virtute et sapientia
fecisti ut redire liceat ad parentis denuo,
cúm apud hunc confessus es et genus et divitias meas:
quo pacto emisisti e vinclis tuom erum tua sapientia.

Phil.
Feci ego ista út commemoras, et te meminisse id gratum est mihi.
merito tibi ea evenerunt a me; nam nunc, Philocrates,
sí ego item memorem quae me erga multa fecisti bene,
nox diem adimat; nam quasi servos meus esses, nihilo setius
tu mihi obsequiosus semper fuisti.

Heg.
Di vostram fidem,
hominum ingenium liberale. ut lacrumas excutiunt mihi.
videas corde amare inter se. quantis lautus laudibus
suom erum servos collaudavit.

Tynd.
Pól istic me haud centesimam
partem laudat quam ipse meritust ut laudetur laudibus.

Heg.
Ergo cum optume fecisti, nunc adest occasio
bene facta cumulare, ut erga hunc rem geras fideliter.

Phil.
Magis non factum possum velle, quam opera experiar persequi;
id ut scias, Iovem supremum testem laudo, Hegio,
me infidelem non futurum Philocrati.

Heg.
Probus es homo.

Phil.
Nec me secus umquam ei facturum quicquam quam memet mihi.

Tynd.
Istaec dicta te experiri et operis et factis volo;
et, quo minus dixi quam volui de te, animum advortas volo,
atque horunc verborum causa caveto mi iratus fuas;
sed, te quaeso, cogitato hinc mea fide mitti domum
te aestimatum, et méam esse vitam hic pro te positam pignori,
ne tu me ignores, quom extemplo meo é conspectu abscesseris,
quom me servom in servitute pro ted hic reliqueris,
tuque te pro libero esse ducas, pignus deseras
neque des operam pro me ut huius reducem facias filium;
scito te hinc minis viginti aéstumatum mittier.
fac fidelis sis fideli, cave fidem fluxam geras:
nam pater, scio, faciet quae illum facere oportet omnia;
serva tibi in perpetuom amicum me, atque hunc inventum inveni.
haec per dexteram tuam te dextera retinens manu
opsecro, infidelior mihi ne fuas quam ego sum tibi.
tu hóc age. tu mihí erus nunc es, tu patronus, tu pater,
tibi commendo spes opesque meas.

Phil.
Mandavisti satis.
satin habes, mandata quae sunt facta si refero?

Tynd.
Satis.

Phil.
Et tua et tua huc ornatus reveniam ex sententia.
numquid aliud?

Tynd.
Vt quam primum possis redeas.

Phil.
Res monet.

Heg.
Sequere me, viaticum ut dem á trapezita tibi,

eadem opera a praetore sumam syngraphum.

Tynd.
Quem syngraphum?

Heg.
Quem hic ferat secum ad legionem, hinc ire huic ut liceat domum.
tu intro abi.

T.
Bene ambulato. —

P.
Bene vale.

H.
Edepol rem meam
constabilivi, quom illos emi de praeda a quaestoribus;
expedivi ex servitute filium, si dis placet.
at etiam dubitavi, hos homines emerem an non emerem, diu.
servate istum sultis intus, servi, ne quoquam pedem
ecferat sine custodela. iam ego apparebo domi;
ad fratrem modo captivos alios inviso meos,
eadem percontabor, ecquis hunc ádulescentem noverit.
sequere tu, te ut amittam; ei rei primum praevorti volo. —

ACT III.

Ergasilvs

Míser homo est, qui ipse sibi quod edit quaerit et id aegre invenit,
sed ille est miserior, qui et aegre quaerit et nihil invenit;
ille miserrimust, qui cum esse cupit, tum quod edit non habet.
nam hercle ego huic die, si liceat, oculos effodiam libens,
ita malignitate oneravit omnis mortalis mihi;
neque ieiuniosiorem neque magis ecfertum fame
vidi nec quoi minus procedat quidquid facere occeperit,
ita venter gutturque resident esurialis ferias.
ilicet parasiticae arti maximam malam crucem,
ita iuventus iam ridiculos inopesque ab se segregat.
nil morantur iam Lacones unisubselli viros,
plagipatidas, quibus sunt verba sine penu et pecunia:
eos requirunt, qui libenter, quom ederint, reddant domi;
ipsi obsonant, quae parasitorum ante erat provincia,
ipsi de foro tam aperto capite ad lenones eunt
quam in tribú aperto capite sontes condemnant reos;
neque ridiculos iam terrunci faciunt, sese omnes amant.
nám uti dudum hinc abii, accessi ad adulescentes in foro.
'salvete' inquam. 'quo imus una' ínquam 'ad prandium?' atque illi tacent.
'quis ait "hoc" aut quis profitetur?' inquam. quasi muti silent,
neque me rident. 'ubi cenamus?' inquam. átque illi abnuont.
dico unum ridiculum dictum de dictis melioribus,
quibus solebam menstruales epulas ante adipiscier:
nemo ridet; scivi extemplo rem de compecto geri;
ne canem quidem irritatam voluit quisquam imitarier,
saltem, si non arriderent, dentes ut restringerent.
abeo ab illis, postquam video me sic ludificarier;
pergo ad alios, venio ad alios, deinde ad alios: una res.
omnes de compecto rém agunt, quasi in Velabro olearii.
nunc redeo inde, quoniam mé ibi video ludificarier.
item alii parasiti frustra obambulabant in foro.
nunc barbarica lege certumst ius meum omne persequi:

qui consilium iniere, quo nos victu et vita prohibeant,
is diem dicam, irrogabo multam, ut mihi cenas decem
meo arbitratu dent, cum cara annona sit. sic egero.
nunc ibo ad portum hinc: est illic mi una spes cenatica;
si éa decolabit, redibo huc ad senem ad cenam asperam. —

Hegio
Quid est suávius, quam bene rém gerere,
bonó publicó, sic ut égo feci herí,
cum emi hósce homines: ubi quísque vident,
eúnt obviam gratulánturque eám rem.
íta me miserum restitando
retinendoque lassum reddiderunt:
vix éx gratulándo misér iam eminebam.
tandem ábii ad praetórem; ibí vix requiévi:
rogo sýngraphum, datur mi ílico; dedi Týndaro: ille abiít domum.
inde ílico praevórtor domúm, postquam id áctum est;
eo prótinus ad fratrém, mei ubi súnt alii captívi.
rogo, Philocratem ex Alide ecquis hominum
noverit: tandem hic exclamat, eum sibi esse sodalem;
dico eum esse apud me; hic extemplo orat obsecratque,
eum sibi ut liceat videre:
iussi ílico hunc exsolvi. nunc tu sequere me,
ut quód me oravisti ímpetres, eum hóminem uti convénias. —

Tyndarvs
Nunc íllud est, cum mé fuisse quam ésse nimio mávelim:
nunc spes opes auxiliaque a me segregant spernuntque se.
hic illést dies, cum nulla vitae meae salus sperabilest,
neque † exílium exitio est néque adeo spes, quae mi hunc aspellat metum,
nec subdolis mendaciis mihi usquam mantellum est meis,
nec sycophantiis nec fucis ullum mantellum obviam est
neque deprecatio perfidiis meis nec male factis fuga est,
nec confidentiae usquam hospitium est nec deverticulum dolis:
operta quae fuere aperta sunt, patent praestigiae,
ómnis res palam est, néque de hac re negotium est,

quín male occidam oppetamque pestem eri vicem meamque.
perdidit me Aristophontes hic qui venit modo intro †
is me novit, is sodalis Philocrati et cognatus est.
neque iám Salus servare, si volt, me potest, nec copia est,
nisi si áliquam corde machinor astutiam.
quám, malum? quid machiner? quid comminiscar? maxumas
nugás ineptus incipisso. haereo.

Hegio
Quo illúm nunc hominem próripuisse fóras se dicam ex aédibus?

Tynd.
Núnc enim vero ego óccidi: eúnt ad te hostes, Tyndare.
quíd loquar? quid fabulabor? quid negabo aut quid fatebor?
mihi rés omnis ín incerto sita est. quid rebus confidam meis?
utinám te di prius perderent, quam periisti e patria tua,
Aristophontes, qui ex parata re imparatam omnem facis.
occísa est haec res, nisi reperio atrocem mi aliquam astutiam.

Heg.
Sequere. ém tibi hominem. adi, atque adloquere.

Tynd.
Quis homo est me hominum miserior?

Aristophontes
Quíd istuc est quod meos te dicam fugitare oculos, Tyndare,
proque ignoto me aspernari, quasi me numquam noveris?
equidem tam sum servos quam tu, etsi ego domi liber fui,
tu usque a puero servitutem servivisti in Alide.

Heg.
Edepol minime miror, si te fugitat aut oculos tuos,
aut si te odit, qui istum appelles Tyndarum pro Philocrate.

Tynd.
Hegió, hic homó rabiosus habitus est in Alide,
ne tu quód istic fabuletur auris immittas tuas.

nam istic hastis insectatus est domi matrem et patrem,
et illic isti qui insputatur morbus interdum venit.
proin tu ab istoc procul recedas.

Heg.
Vltro istum a me.

A.
Ain, verbero?
me rabiosum atque insectatum esse hastis meum memoras patrem,
et eum morbum mi esse, ut qui me ópus sit insputarier?

Heg.
Ne verere, multos iste morbus homines macerat,
quibus insputari saluti fuit atque is profuit.

Arist.
Quid tu autem? etiam huic credis?

Heg.
Quid ego credam huic?

Arist.
Insanum esse me?

Tynd.
Viden tu hunc, quam ínimico voltu intuetur? concedi optumumst,
Hegio: fit quód tibi ego dixi, glíscit rabies, cave tibi.

Heg.
Credidi esse insanum extemplo, ubi te appellavit Tyndarum.

Tynd.
Quin suom ipse interdum ignorat nomen neque scit qui siet.

Heg.
At etiam te suom sodalem esse aibat.

Tynd.
Haud vidi magís.
et quidem Alcumeus atque Orestes et Lycurgus postea
una opera mihi sunt sodales qua iste.

Arist.
At etiam, furcifer,
male loqui mi audés? non ego te novi?

Heg.
Pol planum id quidem est,
non novisse, qui istum appelles Tyndarum pro Philocrate.
quem vides, eum ignoras: illum nominas quem non vides.

Arist.
Immo iste eum sese ait, qui non est, esse, et qui vero est, negat.

Tynd.
Tu énim repertu's, Philocratem qui superes veriverbio.

Arist.
Pol ego ut rem video, tu inventu's, vera vanitudine
qui convincas. sed quaeso hercle, agedum aspice ad me.

Tynd.
Em.

Arist.
Dic modo:
tun negas te Tyndarum esse?

T.
Négo, inquam.

A.
Tun te Philocratem
esse ais?

Tynd.
Égo, inquam.

Arist.
Tune huic credis?

Heg.
Plus quidem quam tibi aut mihi.
nam ílle quidem, quem tu hunc memoras esse, hodie hinc abiit Alidem
ad patrem huius.

Arist.
Quem patrem, qui servos est?

T.
Et tu quidem
servos es, liber fuisti, et ego me confido fore,
si huius huc reconciliasso in libertatem filium.

Arist.
Quid ais, furcifer? tun te gnatum esse memoras liberum?

Tynd.
Non equidem me Liberum, sed Philocratem esse aio.

A.
Quid est?
ut scelestus, Hegio, nunc iste te ludos facit.
nám is est servos ipse, neque praeter se umquam ei servos fuit.

Tynd.
Quia tute ipse eges in patria nec tibi qui vivas domist,
omnis inveniri similis tui vis; non mirum facis:
est miserorum, ut malevolentes sint atque invideant bonis.

Arist.
Hegio, vide sis, ne quid tu huic temere insistas credere.

atque, ut perspicio, profecto iam áliquid pugnae edidit.
filium tuom quód redimere se ait, id ne utiquam mihi placet.

Tynd.
Scio te id nolle fieri; efficiam tamen ego id, si di adiuvant.
illum restituam huic, hic autem in Alidem me meo patri.
propterea ad patrem hinc amisi Tyndarum.

Arist.
Quin tute is es:
neque praeter te in Alide ullus servos istoc nominest.

Tynd.
Pergin servom me exprobrare esse, id quod vi hostili optigit?

Arist.
Enim iam nequeo contineri.

T.
Heus, audin quid ait? quin fugis?
iam illic hic nos insectabit lapidibus, nisi illunc iubes
comprehendi.

Arist.
Crucior.

Tynd.
Ardent oculi: fit opus, Hegio;
viden tu illi maculari corpus totum maculis luridis?
atra bilis agitat hominem.

Arist.
At pol te, si hic sapiat senex,
pix atra agitet apud carnificem tuoque capiti inluceat.

Tynd.
Iam deliramenta loquitur, laruae stimulant virum.
hercle qui, si hunc comprehendi iusseris, sapias magis.

Arist.
Crucior, lapidem non habere mé, ut illi mastigiae
cerebrum excutiam, qui me insanum verbis concinnat suis.

Tynd.
Audin lapidem quaeritare?

Arist.
Solus te solum volo,

Hegio.
Heg.
Istinc loquere, si quid vis, procul. tamen audiam.

Tynd.
Namque edepol si adbites propius, os denasabit tibi
mordicus.

Arist.
Neque pol me insanum, Hégio, esse creduis
neque fuisse umquam, neque esse morbum quem istic autumat.
verum si quid metuis a me, iube me vinciri: volo,
dum istic itidem vinciatur.

Tynd.
Immo enim vero, Hegio,
istic, qui volt, vinciatur.

Arist.
Tace modo. ego te, Philocrates
false, faciam ut verus hodie reperiare Tyndarus.
quid mi abnutas?

Tynd.
Tibi ego abnuto?

A.
Quid agat, si absis longius?

Heg.
Quid ais? quid si adeam hunc insanum?

Tynd.
Nugas. ludificabitur,
garriet quoi neque pes umquam neque caput compareat.
ornamenta absunt: Aiacem, hunc cum vides, ipsum vides.

Heg.
Nihili facio. tamen adibo.

Tynd.
Nunc ego omnino occidi,
nunc ego intér sacrum saxumque sto, nec quid faciam scio.

Heg.
Do tibi operam, Aristophontes, si quid est quod me velis.

Arist.
Ex me audibis vera quae nunc falsa opinare, Hegio.
sed hoc primúm, me expurigare tibi volo, me insaniam
neque tenere neque mi esse ullum morbum, nisi quod servio.
at ita me rex deorum atque hominum faxit patriae compotem,
ut istic Philocrates non magis est quam aut ego aut tu.

H.
Eho dic mihi,
quis illic igitur est?

Arist.
Quem dudum dixi a principio tibi.
hoc si secus reperies, nullam causam dico quin mihi
et parentum et libertatis apud te deliquio siet.

H.
Quid tu ais?

T.

Me tuom esse servom et te meum erum.

H.
Haud istuc rogo.
fuistin liber?

Tynd.
Fui.

Arist.
Enim vero non fuit, nugas agit.

Tynd.
Qui tu scis? an tu fortasse fuisti meae matri obstetrix,
qui id tam audacter dicere audes?

Arist.
Puerum te vidi puer.

Tynd.
At ego te video maior maiorem: ém rursum tibi.
meam rem non cures, si recte facias. num ego curo tuam?

Heg.
Fuitne huic patér Thensaurochrysonicochrysides?

Arist.
Non fuit, neque ego istuc nomen umquam audivi ante hunc diem.
Philocrati Theodoromedes fuit pater.

Tynd.
Pereo probe.
quin quiescis? i dierectum cor meum, ac suspende te.
tu sussultas, ego miser vix asto prae formidine.

Heg.
Satin istuc mihi exquisitum est, fuisse hunc servom in Alide
neque esse hunc Philocratem?

A.
Tam satis quam numquam hoc invenies secus.
sed ubi is nunc est?

Heg.
Vbi ego minime atque ipsus se volt maxume.
sed vide sis.

Arist.
Quin exploratum dico et provisum hoc tibi.

Heg.
Certon?

Arist.
Quin nihil, inquam, invenies magis hoc certo certius.
Philocrates iam inde usque amicus fuit mihi a puero puer.

Heg.
Tum igitur ego deruncinatus, deartuatus sum miser
huius scelesti techinis, qui me ut lubitum est ductavit dolis.
sed qua faciest tuos sodalis Philocrates?

Arist.
Dicam tibi:
macilento ore, naso acuto, corpore albo, oculis nigris,
subrufus aliquantum, crispus, cincinnatus.

Heg.
Convenit.

Tynd.
Vt quidem hercle in medium ego hodie pessume processerim.
vae illis virgis miseris, quae hodie in tergo morientur meo.

Heg.
Verba mihi data esse video.

Tynd.
Quid cessatis, compedes,
currere ad me meaque amplecti crura, ut vos custodiam?

Heg.
Satin med illi hodie scelesti capti ceperunt dolo?
illic servom se assimulabat, hic sese autem liberum.
nuculeum amisi, retinui pignori putamina.
ita mihi stólido sursum versum os sublevere offuciis.
hic quidem mé numquam irridebit. Colaphe, Cordalio, Corax,
ite istinc, ecferte lora.

Colaphvs
Num lignatum mittimur?

Heg.
Inícite huic manicas ... mastigiae.

Tynd.
Quid hoc ést negoti? quid ego deliqui?

Heg.
Rogas,
sator sartorque scelerum, et messor maxume?

Tynd.
Non occatorem dicere audebas prius?
nam semper occant prius quam sariunt rustici.

Heg.
At ut cónfidenter ... mihi contra astitit.

Tynd.
Decet innocentem servom átque innoxium
confidentem esse, suom apud erum potissimum.

Heg.
Adstringite isti sultis vehementer manus.

Tynd.
Tuós sum, tu has quidem vel praecidi iube.
sed quid negoti est, quam ob rem suscenses mihi?

Heg.
Quia me meamque rem, quod in te uno fuit,
tuis scelestis falsidicis fallaciis
deartuasti dilaceravisti atque opes
confecisti omnes, res ac rationes meas:
ita mi exemisti Philocratem fallaciis.
illum esse servom credidi, te liberum;
ita vosmet aiebatis itaque nomina
inter vos permutastis.

Tynd.
Fateor, omnia
facta esse ita ut tu dicis, et fallaciis
abiisse eum abs te mea opera atque astutia;
an, obsecro hercle te, id nunc suscenses mihi?

Heg.
At cum cruciatu maxumo id factumst tuo.

Tynd.
Dum ne ob male facta, peream, parvi aestumo.
si ego hic peribo, ast ille ut dixit non redit,
at erit mi hoc factum mortuo memorabile,
me meum erum captum ex servitute atque hostibus
reducem fecisse liberum in patriam ad patrem,
meumque potius me caput periculo
praeoptavisse, quam is periret, ponere.

Heg.
Facito ergo ut Acherunti clueas gloria.

Tynd.
Qui per virtutem, periit, at non interit.

Heg.
Quando ego te exemplis pessumis cruciavero
atque ob sutelas tuas te morti misero,
vel te interiisse vel periisse praedicent;
dum pereas, nihil intererit: dicant vivere.

Tynd.
Pol si istuc faxis, haud sine poena feceris,
si ille huc rebitet, sicut confido affore.

Arist.
Pro di immortales, nunc ego teneo, nunc scio
quid hoc sít negoti. meus sodalis Philocrates
in libertate est ad patrem in patria. bene est,
nec quisquam est mihi, aeque melius cui velim.
sed hoc mihi aegre est, me huic dedisse operam malam,
qui nunc propter me meaque verba vinctus est.

Heg.
Votuin te quicquam mi hodie falsum proloqui?

Tynd.
Votuisti.

Heg.
Cur es ausus mentiri mihi?

Tynd.
Quia vera obessent illi quoi operam dabam:
nunc falsa prosunt.

Heg.
At tibi oberunt.

Tynd.
Optumest.
at erum servavi, quem servatum gaudeo,
cui me custodem addiderat erus maior meus.

sed malene id factum árbitrare?

Heg.
Pessume.

Tynd.
At ego aio recte, qui abs te sorsum sentio.
nam cogitato, si quis hoc gnato tuo
tuos servos faxit, qualem haberes gratiam?
emitteresne necne eum servom manu?
essetne apud te is servos acceptissimus?
responde.

Heg.
Opinor.

Tynd.
Cur ergo iratus mihi es?

Heg.
Quia illi fuisti quam mihi fidelior.

Tynd.
Quid? tu una nocte postulavisti et die
recens captum hominem, nuperum novicium,
te perdocere ut melius consulerem tibi,
quam illi, quicum una a puero aetatem exegeram?

Heg.
Ergo ab eo petito gratiam istam. ducite,
ubi ponderosas crassas capiat compedes.
inde ibis porro in latomias lapidarias.
ibi quom alii octonos lapides effodiunt, nisi
cotidiano sesquiopus confeceris,
Sescentoplago nomen indetur tibi.

Arist.
Per deos atque homines ego te obtestor, Hegio,

ne tu istunc hominem perduis.

Heg.
Curabitur;
nam noctu nervo vinctus custodibitur,
interdius sub terra lapides eximet:
diu ego húnc cruciabo, non uno absolvam die.

Arist.
Certumne est tíbi istuc?

Heg.
Non moriri certius.
abducite istum actutum ad Hippolytum fabrum,
iubete huic crassas compedes impingier;
inde extra portam ad meum libertum Cordalum
in lapicidinas facite deductus siet:
atque hunc me velle dicite ita curarier,
ne qui deterius huic sit quam cui pessume est.

Tynd.
Cur ego te invito me esse salvom postulem?
periclum vitae meae tuo stat periculo.
post mortem in morte nihil est quod metuam mali.
etsi pervivo usque ad summam aetatem, tamen
breve spatium est perferundi quae minitas mihi.
vale atque salve, etsi aliter ut dicam meres.
tu, Aristophontes, de me ut meruisti, ita vale;
nam mihi propter te hoc optigit.

Heg.
Abducite.

Tynd.
At unum hoc quaeso, si huc rebitet Philocrates,
ut mi eius facias conveniundi copiam.

Heg.

Periistis, nisi hunc iam e conspectu abducitis.

Tynd.
Vis haec quidem hercle est, et trahi et trudi simul. —

Heg.
Illic ést abductus recta in phylacam, ut dignus est.
ego illís captivis aliis documentum dabo,
ne tale quisquam facinus incipere audeat.
quod absque hoc esset, qui mihi hoc fecit palam,
usque offrenatum suis me ductarent dolis.
nunc certum est nulli posthac quicquam credere.
satis súm semel deceptus. speravi miser
ex servitute me exemisse filium:
ea spes elapsa est. perdidi unum filium,
puerum quadrimum quem mihi servos surpuit,
neque eum servom umquam repperi neque filium;
maior potitus hostium est. quod hoc ést scelus?
quasi in orbitatem liberos produxerim.
sequere hac. reducam te ubi fuisti. neminis
miserere certum est, quia mei miseret neminem. —

Arist.
Exauspicavi ex vinclis. nunc intellego
redauspicandum esse in catenas denuo. —

ACT IV.

Ergasilvs
Iúppiter supreme, servas me measque auges opes,
máximas opimitates opiparasque offers mihi,
laudém lucrum, ludum iocum, festivitatem ferias,
pompám penum, potationis saturitatem, gaudium,
néc cuiquam homini supplicare ... nunc certum est mihi;
nam vél prodesse amico possum vel inimicum perdere,
ita híc me amoenitate amoena amoenus oneravit dies.
síne sacris hereditatem sum aptus effertissimam.
nunc ád senem cursum capessam hunc Hegionem, cui boni
tantum affero quantum ipsus a dis optat, atque etiam amplius.
nunc cérta res est, eodem pacto ut comici servi solent
coníciam in collum pallium, primo ex med hanc rem ut audiat;
speróque me ob hunc nuntium aetérnum adepturum cibum.

Hegio
Quanto ín pectore hánc rem meó magis volúto,
tanto mi aegritudo auctiór est in animo.
ad illum modum sublitum os esse mi hodie!
neque íd perspicere quivi.
quod cúm scibitúr, tum per úrbem inridébor.
cum extemplo ad forum advenero, omnes loquentur:
‘hic illest senex doctus, quoi verba data sunt.’
sed Ergasilus estne hic, procúl quem video?
conlécto quidem est pallio. quidnam acturust?

Erg.
Move áps te moram átque, Ergásile, age hanc rem.
éminor interminorque, ne mi obstiterit obviam
nisi quis satis diu vixisse sese homo arbitrabitur.
nam qui obstiterit, ore sistet.

Heg.
Hic homo pugilatum incipit.

Erg.
Facere certumst. proinde ita omnes itinera insistant sua,
ne quis in hanc plateam negoti conferat quicquam sui.
nam meus est ballista pugnus, cubitus catapultast mihi,
umerus aries, tum genu quemque icero ad terram dabo,
dentilegos omnes mortales faciam, quemque offendero.

Heg.
Quae illaec eminatiost nam? nequeo mirari satis.

Erg.
Faciam ut huius diei locique meique semper meminerit.
Qui mihi in cursu opstiterit, faxo vitae is extemplo opstiterit suae.

Heg.
Quid hic homo tantum incipissit facere cum tantis minis?

Erg.
Prius edico, ne quis propter culpam capiatur suam:
continete vos domi, prohibete a vobis vim meam.

Heg.
Mira edepol sunt, ní hic in ventrem sumpsit confidentiam.
vae misero illi, cuius cibo iste factust imperiosior.

Erg.
Tum pistores scrofipasci, quí alunt furfuribus sues,
quarum odore praeterire nemo pistrinum potest:
eorum si quoiusquam scrofam in publico conspexero,
ex ipsis dominis meis pugnis exculcabo furfures.

Heg.
Basilicas edictiones atque imperiosas habet:
satur homost, habet profecto in ventre confidentiam.

Erg.
Tum piscatores, qui praebent populo pisces foetidos,
qui advehuntur quadrupedanti crucianti cantherio,

quorum odos subbasilicanos omnes abigit in forum,
eis ego ora verberabo surpiculis piscariis,
ut sciant, alieno naso quam exhibeant molestiam.
tum lanii autem, qui concinnant liberis orbas oves,
qui locant caedundos agnos et duplam agninam danunt,
qui petroni nomen indunt verveci sectario,
eum ego si in via petronem publica conspexero,
et petronem et dominum reddam mortales miserrumos.

Heg.
Eugepae, edictiones aedilicias hic quidem habet,
mirumque adeost ni hunc fecere sibi Aetóli agoranomum.

Erg.
Non ego nunc parasitus sum, sed regum rex regalior,
tantus ventri commeatus meo adest in portu cibus.
sed ego cesso hunc Hegionem onerare laetitia senem,
quó homine hominum adaeque nemo vivit fortunatior?

Heg.
Quae illaec est laetitia, quam illic laetus largitur mihi?

Erg.
Heus ubi estis? ecquis hic est? ecquis hoc aperit ostium?

H.
Hic homo ad cenam recipit se ad me.

E.
Áperite hasce ambas fores
prius quam pultando assulatim foribus exitium adfero.

H.
Perlúbet hunc hominem colloqui. Ergásile.

E.
Ergasilum qui vocat?

Heg.
Respíce.

Erg.
Fortuna quod tibi nec fácit nec faciet, me iubes.
55 séd quis est?

Heg.
Réspice ad me, Hégio sum.

Erg.
Óh mihi,
quántum est hominum óptumorum óptume, in témpore advenis.

Heg.
Nescío quem ad portum náctus es ubi cénes, eo fastídis.

E.
Cédo manum.

H.
Manum?

E.
Manum, inquam, cedo tuam actutum.

Heg.
Tene.

E.
Gaude.

H.
Quid ego gaudeam?

E.
Quia ego impero, age gaude modo.

Heg.

Pol maerores mi antevortunt gaudiis.

Erg.
Noli irascier
iám ego ex corpore exigam omnis maculas maerorum tibi.
gaude audacter.

Heg.
Gaudeo, etsi nil scio quod gaudeam.

Erg.
Bene facis. iubé —

Heg.
Quid iubeam?

E.
Ignem ingentem fieri.

H.
Ignem ingentem?

E.
Ita dico, magnus ut sit.

H.
Quid? me, volturi,
tuan causa aedis incensurum censes?

Erg.
Noli irascier.
iuben an non iubes astitui aúlas, patinas elui,
† laridum atque epulas foveri foculis ferventibus?
alium pisces praestinatum abire?

Heg.
Hic vigilans somniat.

Erg.
Alium porcinam atque agninam et pullos gallinaceos?

Heg.
Scis bene esse, si sit unde.

Erg.
† Pernam atque ophthalmiam,
horaeum, scombrum et trygonum et cetum, et mollem caseum?

Heg.
Nominandi istorum tibi erit magis quam edundi copia
hic apud me, Ergasile.

Erg.
Mean me causa hoc censes dicere?

Heg.
Nec nihil hodie nec multo plus tu hic edes, ne frustra sis.
proin tu tui cottidiani victi ventrem ad me afferas.

Erg.
Quin ita faciam, ut tute cupias facere sumptum, etsi ego vetem.

H.
Egone?

E.
Tune.

H.
Tum tu mi igitur erus es.

E.
Immo benevolens.
vin te faciam fortunatum?

Heg.

Malim quam miserum quidem.

E.
Cedo manum.

H.
Em manum.

E.
Di te omnes adiuvant.

H.
Nil sentio.

Erg.
Non enim es in senticeto, eo non sentis. sed iube
vasa tibi pura apparari ád rem divinam cito,
atque agnum afferri proprium pinguem.

Heg.
Cur?

Erg.
Vt sacrufices.

H.
Cui deorum?

E.
Mi hercle, nam égo nunc tibi sum summus Iuppiter,
idem ego sum Salus, Fortuna, Lux, Laetitia, Gaudium.
proin tu deum hunc saturitate facias tranquillum tibi.

Heg.
Esurire mihi videre.

Erg.
Mi quidem esurio, non tibi.

Heg.
Tuo arbitratu, facile patior.

Erg.
Credo, consuetu's puer.

Heg.
Iuppiter te dique perdant.

E.
Te hercle — mi aequom est gratias
agere ob nuntium; tantum ego nunc porto a portu tibi boni:
nunc tu mihi places.

Heg.
Abi, stultu's, sero post tempus venis.

Erg.
Igitur olim si advenissem, magis tu tum istuc diceres;
nunc hanc laetitiam accipe a me, quam fero. nam filium
tuom modo in portu Philopolemum vivom, salvom et sospitem
vidi in publica celoce, ibidémque illum adulescentulum
Aleum una et tuom Stalagmum servom, qui aufugit domo,
qui tibi surripuit quadrimum puerum filiolum tuom.

Heg.
Abi in malam rem, ludis me.

Erg.
Ita me amabit sancta Saturitas,
Hegio, itaque suo me semper condecoret cognomine,
ut ego vidi.

H.
Meum gnatum?

E.
Tuom gnatum et genium meum.

H.
Et captivom illum Alidensem?

E.
μὰ τὸν ... ʾαπόλλω.

H.
Et servolum
meum Stalagmum, meum qui gnatum surripuit?

Erg.
ναὶ τὰν ... κόραν.

H.
Iam credo?

E.
ναὶ τὰν ... πραινέστην.

H.
Venit?

E.
ναὶ τὰν ... σιγνίαν.

H.
Certon?

E.
ναὶ τὸν ... φρουσινῶνα.

H.
Vide sis.

E.
ναὶ τὸν ... ʾαλάτριον.

Heg.
Quid tu per barbaricas urbes iuras?

Erg.
Quia enim item asperae
sunt ut tuom victum autumabas esse.

Heg.
Vae aetati tuae.

Erg.
Quippe quando mihi nil credis, quod ego dico sedulo.
sed Stalagmus quoius erat tunc nationis, cum hinc abit?

Heg.
Siculus.

Erg.
At nunc Siculus non est, Boius est, Boiam terit:
liberorum quaerundorum causa ei, credo, uxor datast.

Heg.
Dic, bonan fide tu mi istaec verba dixisti?

Erg.
Bona.

Heg.
Di immortales, iterum gnatus videor, si vera autumas.

Erg.
Ain tu? dubium habebis etiam, sancte quom ego iurem tibi?
postremo, Hegio, si parva iuri iurandost fides,
vise ad portum.

Heg.
Facere certumst. tu intus cura quod opus est.
sume, posce, prome quid vis. te facio cellarium.

Erg.
Nam hercle, nisi mantiscinatus probe ero, fusti pectito.

Heg.
Aeternum tibi dapinabo victum, si vera autumas.

E.
Vnde id?

H.
A me meoque gnato.

E.
Sponden tu istud?

H.
Spondeo.
Erg.
At ego tuom tibi advenisse filium respondeo.

Heg.
Cura quam optume potes. —

Erg.
Bene ambula et redambula.
illic hinc abiit, mihi rem summam credidit cibariam.
di immortales, iam ut ego collos praetruncabo tegoribus,
quanta pernis pestis veniet, quanta labes larido,
quanta sumini absumedo, quanta callo calamitas,
quanta laniis lassitudo, quanta porcinariis.
nam si alia memorem, quae ad ventris victum conducunt, morast.
nunc ibo, ut pro praefectura mea ius dicam larido,
et quae pendent indemnatae pernae, eis auxilium ut feram. —

Pver
Diéspiter te dique, Ergasile, perdant et ventrem tuom,
parasítosque omnis, et qui posthac cenam parasitis dabit.
cladés calamitasque, intemperies módo in nostram advenit domum.
quasi lúpus esuriens ille metui ne in me faceret impetum.
ubi ... impetum
nimisque hércle ego illum male formidabam, ita frendebat dentibus.

advéniens deturbavit totum cum carne carnarium:
arrípuit gladium, praetruncavit tribus tegoribus glandia;
aulás calicesque omnes confregit, nisi quae modiales erant.
cocum pércontabatur, possentne seriae fervescere.
cellás refregit omnis intus reclusitque armarium.
adsérvate istunc, sultis, servi. ego ibo, ut conveniam senem,
dicam út sibi penum alium adornet, siquidem sese uti volet;
nam híc quidém, ut adornat, aut iam nihil est aut iam nihil erit. —

ACT V.

Hegio
Ioví disque agó gratiás merito mágnas,
quom reducem tuo te patri reddiderunt
quomque ex miseriis plurimis me exemerunt,
† quae adhuc carens dum huc fui sustentabam,
quomque hunc conspicor in potestate nostra,
quomque huius reperta est fides firma nobis.

Philopolemvs
Sátis iam dolui ex ánimo, et cura mé satis et lacrumis máceravi,
sátis iam audivi tuás aerumnas, ád portum mihi quás memorasti.
hóc agamus.

Philocrates
Quid nunc, quoniam tecum servavi fidem
tibique hunc reducem in libertatem feci?

Heg.
Fecisti ut tibi,
Philocrates, numquam referre gratiam possim satis,
proinde ut tu promeritu's de me et filio.

Philop.
Immo potes,
pater, et poteris et ego potero, et dí eam potestatem dabunt
ut beneficium bene merenti nostro merito muneres;
sicut nunc potes, pater mi, facere merito maxume.

Heg.
Quid opust verbis? lingua nullast qua negem quidquid roges.

Philocr.
Postulo abs te, ut mi illum reddas servom, quem hic reliqueram
pignus pro me, qui mihi melior quam sibi semper fuit,
pro bene factis eius ut ei pretium possim reddere.

Heg.
Quod bene fecisti referetur gratia id quod postulas;
et id et aliud, quod me orabis, impetrabis. atque te
nolim suscensere quod ego iratus ei feci male.

Philocr.
Quid fecisti?

Heg.
In lapicidinas compeditum condidi,
ubi rescivi mihi data esse verba.

Philocr.
Vae misero mihi,
propter meum caput labores homini evenisse optumo.

Heg.
At ob eam rem mihi libellam pró eo argenti ne duis:
gratiis a me, ut sit liber, ducito.

Philocr.
Edepol, Hegio,
facis benigne. sed quaeso, hominem ut iubeas arcessi.

Heg.
Licet.
ubi estís vos? ite actutum, Tyndarum huc arcessite.
vos ite intro. interibi ego ex hac statua verberea volo
erogitare, meo minore quid sit factum filio.
vos lavate interibi.

Philop.
Sequere hac, Philocrates, me intro. —

Philocr.
Sequor. —

Heg.

Age tu illuc procede, bone vir, lepidum mancupium meum.

Stalagmvs
Quid me oportet facere, ubi tu talis vir falsum autumas?
fui ego bellus, lepidus: bonus vir numquam, neque frugi bonae,
neque ero umquam, ne erres: spem ponas me bonae frugi fore.

Heg.
Propemodum ubi loci fortunae tuae sint facile intellegis.
sí eris verax, tua ex re, facies ex mala meliusculam.
recte et vera loquere, sed neque vere neque tu recte adhuc
fecisti umquam.

Stal.
Quod ego fatear, credin pudeat cum autumes?

Heg.
At ego faciam ut pudeat, nam in ruborem te totum dabo.

Stal.
Eia, credo ego imperito plagas minitaris mihi.
tandem ista aufer ac dic quid fers, ut feras hinc quod petis.

Heg.
Satis facundu's. sed iam fieri dicta compendi volo.

Stal.
Vt vis fiat.

Heg.
Bene morigerus fuit puer, nunc non decet.
hoc agamus. iam animum advorte ac mihi quae dicam edissere.
sí eris verax, ex tuis rebus feceris meliusculas.

Stal.
Nugae istaec sunt. non me censes scire quid dignus siem?

Heg.

At ea subterfugere potis es pauca, si non omnia.

Stal.
Pauca effugiam, scio; nam multa evenient, et merito meo,
quia et fugi et tibi surripui filium et eum vendidi.

Heg.
Cui homini?

Stal.
Theodoromedi in Alide Polyplusio,
sex minis.

Heg.
Pro di immortales, is quidem huius est pater

Philocrati.
Stal.
Quin melius novi quam tu et vidi saepius.

Heg.
Serva, Iuppiter supreme, et me et meum gnatum mihi.
Philocrates, per tuom te genium óbsecro, exi, te volo.

Philocrates
Hegio, assum. si quid me vis, impera.

Heg.
Hic gnatum meum
tuo patri ait se vendidisse sex minis in Alide.

Philocr.
Quam diu id factum est?

Stal.
Hic annus incipit vicensimus.

Philocr.

Falsa memorat.

Stal.
Aut ego aut tu. nam tibi quadrimulum
tuos pater peculiarem parvolo puero dedit.

Philocr.
Quid erat ei nomen? si vera dicis, memoradum mihi.

Stal.
Paegnium vocitatust, post vos indidistis Tyndaro.

Philocr.
Cur ego te non novi?

Stal.
Quia mos est oblivisci hominibus
neque novisse cuius nihili sit faciunda gratia.

Philocr.
Dic mihi, isne istíc fuit, quem vendidisti meo patri,
qui mihi peculiaris datus est?

Stal.
Huius filius.

Heg.
Vivitne is homo?

Stal.
Argentum accepi, nil curavi ceterum.

Heg.
Quid tu ais?

Philocr.
Quin istic ipsust Tyndarus tuos filius,
ut quidem hic árgumenta loquitur. nam is mecum a puero puer

bene pudiceque educatust usque ad adulescentiam.

Heg.
Et miser sum et fortunatus, si vos vera dicitis;
eo miser sum quia male illi feci, si gnatust meus.
eheu, quóm ego plus minusve feci quam me aequom fuit.
quod male feci crucior; modo si infectum fieri possiet.
sed eccum incedit huc ornatus haúd ex suis virtutibus.

Tyndarvs
Vidi ego multa saepe picta, quae Acherunti fierent
cruciamenta, verum enim vero nulla adaeque est Acheruns
atque ubi ego fui, in lapicidinis. illic ibi demumst locus,
ubi labore lassitudo est exigunda ex corpore.
nam ubi illo adveni, quasi patriciis pueris aut monerulae,
aut anites aut coturnices dantur, quicum lusitent,
itidem mi haec advenienti upupa, qui me delectem, datast.
sed erus eccum ante ostium, et erus alter eccum ex Alide
rediit.

Heg.
Salve, éxoptate gnate mi.

Tynd.
Hem, quid gnate mi?
attat, scio cur te patrem adsimules esse et me filium:
quia mi item ut parentes lucis das tuendi copiam.

Philocr.
Salve, Tyndare.

T.
Et tu, quoius causa hanc aerumnam exigo.

Philocr.
At nunc liber in divitias faxo venies. nam tibi
pater hic est; hic servos, qui te huic hinc quadrimum surpuit,
vendidit patri meo te sex minis, is te mihi

parvolum peculiarem parvolo puero dedit:
illic indícium fecit; nam hunc ex Alide huc reduximus.

Tynd.
Quid huius filium?

Philocr.
Intus eccum fratrem germanum tuom.

Tynd.
Quid tu ais? adduxtin illum huius captivom filium?

Philocr.
Quin, inquam, intus hic est.

T.
Fecisti edepol et recte et bene.

Philocr.
Nunc tibi páter hic est: hic fur est tuos, qui parvom hinc te abstulit.

Tynd.
At ego hunc grandis grandem natu ob furtum ad carnificem dabo.

Philocr.
Meritus est.

T.
Ergo edepol merito meritam mercedem dabo.
sed tu dic oro: pater meus tune es?

Heg.
Ego sum, gnate mi.

Tynd.
Nunc demum in memoriam redeo, cum mecum recogito.
nunc edepol demum in memoriam regredior, audisse me
quasi per nebulam, Hégionem meum patrem vocarier.

Heg.
Is ego sum.

Philocr.
Compedibus quaeso ut tibi sit levior filius
atque huic gravior servos.

Heg.
Certum est principio id praevortier.
eamus intro, ut arcessatur faber, ut istas compedes
tibi adimam, huic dem.

Stal.
Quoi peculi nihil est, recte feceris.

Caterva
Spectatores, ad pudicos mores facta haec fabula est,
neque in hac subigitationes sunt neque ulla amatio
nec pueri suppositio nec argénti circumductio,
neque ubi amans adulescens scortum liberet clam suom patrem.
huius modi paucas poetae reperiunt comoedias,
ubi boni meliores fiant. nunc vos, si vobis placet
et si placuimus neque odio fuimus, signum hoc mittite:
qui pudicitiae esse voltis praemium, plausum date.

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PROLOGVS

Salvere iubeo spectatores optumos,
fidem qui facitis maxumi, et vos Fides.
si verum dixi, signum clarum date mihi,
ut vos mi esse aequos iam inde a principio sciam.
qui utuntur vino vetere sapientis puto
et qui libenter veteres spectant fabulas;
atque antiqua opera et verba cum vobis placent,
aequom est placere ante alias veteres fabulas:
nam nunc novae quae prodeunt comoediae
multo sunt nequiores quam nummi novi.
nos postquam populi rumore intelleximus
studiose expetere vos Plautinas fabulas,
antiquam éius edimus comoediam,
quam vos probastis qui estis in senioribus;
nam iuniorum qui sunt non norunt, scio;
verum ut cognoscant dabimus operam sedulo.
haec cum primum acta est, vicit omnis fabulas.
ea tempestate flos poetarum fuit,
qui nunc abierunt hinc in communem locum.
sed tamen absentes prosunt pro praesentibus.
vos omnes opere magno esse oratos volo,
benigne ut operam detis ad nostrum gregem.
eicite ex animo curam atque alienum aes ...
ne quis formidet flagitatorem suom:
ludi sunt, ludus datus est argentariis;
tranquillum est, Alcedonia sunt circum forum:
ratione utuntur, ludis poscunt neminem,
secundum ludos reddunt autem nemini.
aures vocivae si sunt, animum advortite:
comoediai nomen dare vobis volo.
Clerumenoe vocatur haec comoedia
graece, latine Sortientes. Deiphilus
hanc graece scripsit, post id rursum denuo
latine Plautus cum latranti nomine.

senex híc maritus habitat; éi est filius,
is una cum patre in illisce habitat aedibus.
est éi quidam servos, qui in morbo cubat,
immo hercle vero in lecto, ne quid mentiar;
is servos, sed abhinc annos factum est sedecim,
quom conspicatust primulo crepusculo
puellam exponi. adít extemplo ad mulierem
quae illam exponebat, orat ut eam det sibi:
exorat, aufert; detulit recta domum,
dat erae suae, orat ut eam curet, educet.
era fecit, educavit magna industria,
quasi si esset ex se nata, non multo secus.
postquam ea adolevit ad eam aetatem, ut viris
placere posset, eam puellam hic senex
amat efflictim, et item contra filius.
nunc sibi utérque contra legiones parat,
paterque filiusque, clam alter alterum:
pater adlegavit vilicum, qui posceret
sibi istánc uxorem: is sperat, si ei sit data,
sibi fore paratas clam uxorem excubias foris;
filius is autem armigerum adlegavit suom,
qui sibi eam uxorem poscat: scit, si id impetret,
futurum quod amat intra praesepis suas.
senis uxor sensit virum amóri operam dare,
propterea úna consentit cum filio.
ille autem postquam filium sensit suom
eandem illam amare et esse ímpedimento sibi,
hinc adulescentem peregre ablegavit pater;
sciens ei mater dat operam absenti tamen.
is, ne exspectetis, hodie in hac comoedia
in urbem non redibit: Plautus noluit,
pontem interrupit, quí erat ei in itinere.
sunt hic, inter se quos nunc credo dicere:
“quaeso hercle, quíd istuc est? serviles nuptiae?
servin uxorem ducent aut poscent sibi?
novom attulerunt, quod fit nusquam gentium.”
at ego aio id fieri in Graecia et Carthagini,

et hic in nostra terra † in Apulia;
maioreque opere ibi serviles nuptiae
quam liberales etiam curari solent;
id ni fit, mecum pignus si quis volt dato
in urnam mulsi, Poenus dum iudex siet
vel Graecus adeo, vel mea causa Apulus.
quid nunc? nihil agitis? sentio, nemo sitit.
revortar ád illam puellam éxpositiciam:
quam servi summa vi sibi uxorem expetunt,
ea invenietur et pudica et libera,
ingenua Atheniensis, neque quicquam stupri
faciet profecto in hac quidem comoedia.
mox hercle vero, post transactam fabulam,
argentum si quis dederit, ut ego suspicor,
ultro ibit nuptum, non manebit auspices.
tantum est. valete, bene rem gerite et vincite
virtute vera, quod fecistis antidhac.

ACT I.

Olympio
Non mihi licere meam rem me solum, ut volo,
loqui atque cogitare, sine ted arbitro?
quid tu, malum, me sequere?

Chalinvs
Quia certum est mihi,
quasi umbra, quoquo tu ibis, te semper sequi;
quin edepol etiam si in crucem vis pergere,
sequi decretumst. dehinc conicito ceterum,
possisne necne clam me sutelis tuis
praeripere Casinam uxorem, proinde ut postulas.

Ol.
Quid tibi negotist mecum?

Chal.
Quid ais, impudens?
quid in urbe reptas, vilice haud magni preti?

Ol.
Lubet.

Chal.
Quin ruri es in praefectura tua?
quin potius quod legatum est tibi negotium,
id curas atque urbanis rebus te apstines?
huc mihi venisti sponsam praereptum meam:
abi rus, abi dierectus tuam in provinciam.

Ol.
Chaline, non sum oblitus officium meum:
praefeci ruri recte qui curet tamen.
ego huc quod veni in urbem si impetravero,
uxorem ut istam ducam, quam tu deperis,

bellam et tenellam Casinam, conservam tuam,
quando ego eam mecum rus uxorem abduxero,
ruri incubabo usque in praefectura mea.

Chal.
Tun illam ducas? hercle me suspendio,
quam tu eius potior fias, satiust mortuom.

Ol.
Mea praedast illa: proin tu te in laqueum induas.

Chal.
Ex sterculino effosse, tua illaec praeda sit?

Ol.
Scies hóc ita esse.

Chal.
Vae tibi.

Ol.
Quot te modis,
si vivo, habebo in nuptiis miserum meis.

Chal.
Quid tu mihi facies?

Ol.
Egone quid faciam tibi?
primum omnium huic lucebis novae nuptae facem;
postilla, ut semper, improbus nihilique eris:
post id locorum quando ad villam veneris,
dabitur tibi amphora una et una semita,
fons unus, unum ahenum et octo dolia:
quae nisi erunt semper plena, ego te implebo flagris.
ita te aggerunda curvom aqua faciam probe,
ut postilena possit ex te fieri.
post autem érvi nisi tu acervom éderis

aut quasi lumbricus terram, quod te postules
gustare quicquam, numquam edepol ieiunium
ieiunumst aeque atque ego te ruri reddibo.
post id, quom lassus fueris et famelicus,
noctu ut condigne te cubes curabitur.

Chal.
Quid facies?

Ol.
Concludere in fénestram firmiter,
unde auscultare possis quóm ego illam ausculer:
quom mi illa dicet “mi animule, mi Olympio,
mea vita, mea mellilla, mea festivitas,
sine tuos ocellos deosculer, voluptas mea,
sine amabo ted amari, meus festus dies,
meus pullus passer, mea columba, mi lepus”,
quom mi haec dicentur dicta, tum tu, furcifer,
quasi mus, in medio pariete versabere.
nunc ne tu te mihi respondere postules,
abeo intro. taedet tui sermonis. —

Chal.
Te sequor.
hic quidem pol certo nil ages síne med arbitro. —

ACT II.

Cleostrata
Obsígnate céllas, reférte anulum ád me:
ego húc transeo ín proxumum ád meam vicínam.
vir sí quid volét me, facite hínc accersátis.

Pardalisca
Prándium iússerat sénex sibi parari.

Cleost.
St! tace átque abi; néque paro néque hodie coquetur,
quándo is mi et fílio ádvorsatúr suo
ánimi amorísque causá sui,
flágitium illud hóminis. ego illúm fame, ego illúm siti,
maledíctis, malefáctis amátorem ulcíscar,
ego pól illum probe íncommodís dictis ángam,
fáciam uti proínde ut est dígnus vitám colat,
Ácheruntis pábulum,
flágiti persequentem†
stabulúm nequitiae.
nunc húc meas fortúnas eo quéstum ad vicínam.
séd foris concrépuit, atque eápse eccam egreditúr foras:
non pól per tempus iter húc mi incepi.

Myrrhina
Sequimíni, comites, in próxumum me huc. heus vós, ecquis haec quae lóquor audit?
ego hic éro, vir si aut quispiám quaeret.
nam úbi domi sóla sum, sópor manus cálvitur.
iussín colum ferrí mihi?

Cleost.
Myrrhína, salve.

Myrr.
Salvé mecastor. séd quid tu es tristís, amabo?

Cleost.
Itá solent omnes quae súnt male nuptae:
domi ét foris aegre quód siet, satis sémper est.
nam ego íbam ad te.

Myrr.
Et pol ego ístuc ad te.
sed quíd est quod tuo nunc ánimo aegrest?
nam quód tibi est aégre, idem mi ést dividiae.

Cleost.
Credo écastor, nam vícinam nemínem amo merito mágis quam te
nec † qua in plura sint mihi quae ego velim.

Myrr.
Amó te, atque istúc expetó scire quíd sit.

Cleost.
Péssumis mé modis déspicatúr domi.

Myrr.
Hém, quid est? díc idem (nám pol hau sátis meo
córde accepí querellas tuas) ópsecro.

Cleost.
Vír me habet péssumis déspicatám modis,
néc mihi iús meum óptinendi optio est.

Myrr.
Míra sunt, véra si praédicas, nám viri
iús suom ad múlieres óptinere haúd queunt.

Cleost.
Quín mihi ancíllulam ingrátiis póstulat,
quaé mea est, quaé meo edúcta sumptú siet,
vílico suo sé dare,
séd ipsus eam amat.

Myrr.

Obsecro
táce.

Cleost.
Nam hic nunc licet dícere:
nós sumus.

Myrr.
Ita est. unde éa tibi est?
nám peculí probam níl habere áddecet
clám virum, ét quae habet, pártum ei haud cómmode est,
quín viro aut súbtrahat aut stupro invénerit.
hóc viri cénseo esse ómne, quidquíd tuom est.

Cleost.
Tu quidem advorsum tuam amicam omnia loqueris.

Myrr.
Tace sís, stulta, et mi auscúlta. nolí sis tu illi advórsari,
sine amét, sine quod libet íd faciat, quandó tibi nil domi délicuom est.

Cleost.
Satin sána es? nam tu quidem ádvorsus tuam istaéc rem loquere.

Myrr.
Insípiens,
sempér tu huic verbo vítato abs tuo víro.

C.
Cui verbo?

M.
Ei fóras, mulier.

Cleost.

St, táce,

M.
Quid est?

C.
Ém.

M.
Quis est, quém vides?

C.
Vir
eccum ít; intro ábi, adpropera, áge amabó.

Myrr.
Impetrás, abeo.

Cleost.
Mox mágis cum otium mi et tibi érit, igitur
tecúm loquar. nunc vale.

Myrr.
Váleas. —

Lysidamvs
Omnibus rebus ego amorem credo et nitoribus nitidis antevenire,
nec potis quicquam commemorari quod plus salis plusque leporis hodie
habeat; cocos equidem nimis demiror, tot qui utuntur condimentis,
eos eo condimento uno non utier, omnibus quod praestat.
nam úbi amor condiméntum inerit, cuivís placituram escam crédo;
neque sálsum neque suave ésse potest quicquam, úbi amor non admíscetur:
fel quód amarumst, id mél faciet, hominem éx tristi lepidum ét lenem.
hanc égo de me coniécturam domi fácio magis quam ex aúditis;
qui quóm amo Casinam, mágis niteo, mundítiis munditiam ántideo:

myropólas omnes sollicito, ubicúmque est lepidum unguéntum, unguor,
ut illí placeam; et placeo, út videor. sed uxór me excruciat, quía vivit.
tristem ástare aspició. blande haec mihi mála res appellánda est.
uxór mea meaque amoénitas, quid tu agis?

C.
Abi atque abstine manum.

Lys.
Heiá, mea Iuno, nón decet esse té tam tristem tuó Iovi.
quo núnc abis?

C.
Mítte me.

L.
Mane.

C.
Non máneo.

L.
At pol ego té sequar.

Cleost.
Óbsecro, sanun est?

Lys.
Sánus quom téd amo.

Cleost.
Nólo ames.

Lys.
Nón potes ímpetrare.

Cleost.

Énecas.

Lys.
Véra dicás velim.

Cleost.
Crédo ego istúc tibi.

Lys.
Réspice, o mi lepos.

Cleost.
Nempe ita ut tú mihi es.
unde híc, amabo, unguénta olent?

Lys.
Oh périi, manufestó miser
téneor. cessó caput pállio detérgere?
út te bonus Mercúrius perdat, mýropola, quia haec míhi dedisti.

Cleost.
Ého tu nihili, cána culex, vix téneor quin quae décent te dicam,
sénecta aetate únguentatus pér vias, ignáve, incedis?

Lys.
Pól ego amico dédi cuidam operam, dum émit unguenta.

Cl.

Vt cito comméntust.
écquid te pudet?

Lys.
Ómnia quae tu vís.

Cleost.
Vbi in lustrá iacuisti?

Lys.

Égone in lustra?

Cleost.
Scío plus quam tu me árbitrare.

Lys.
Quíd id est? quid scis?

Cleost.
Té sene omniúm † senem néminem esse ignáviorem.
únde is, nihili? ubí fuisti? ubí lustratu's? úbi bibisti?
mádes mecastor: víde, palliolum ut rúgat.

Lys.
Di me et te ínfelicent,
si égo in os méum hodie viní guttam índidi.

Cleost.
Immo age, út lubet,
bíbe, es, disperde rem.

Lys.
Óhe, iam satis, uxór, comprime te, nímium tinnis,
relínque aliquantum orátionis, crás quod mecum lítiges.
séd quid ais? iam domuisti animum, potius ut quod vir velit
fieri, id facias, quam adversere contra?

Cleost.
Qua de re?

Lys.
Rogas?
super ancilla Casina, ut detur nuptum nostro vilico,
servo frugi atque ubi illi bene sit ligno, aqua calida, cibo,
vestimentis, ubique educat pueros quos pariat † potius
quam illi servo nequam des, armigero nili atque improbo,
cui hominí hodie peculi nummus non est plumbeus.

Cleost.
Mirum ecastor, te senecta aétate officium tuom
non meminisse.

Lys.
Quid iam?

C.
Quia, si facias recte aut commode,
me sinas curare ancillas, quae mea est curatio.

Lys.
Qui, malum, homini scutigerulo dáre lubet?

Cleost.
Quía enim filio
nos oportet opitulari único.

Lys.
At quamquam unicust,
nihilo magis ille unicust mihi filius quam ego illi pater:
illum mi aequiust quam me illi quae volo concedere.

Cleost.
Tu ecastor tibi, homo, malam rem quaeris.

Lys.
Subolet, sentio.
egone?

Cleost.
Tu. nam quid friguttis? quid istuc tam cupide cupis?

Lys.
Vt enim frugi servo detur potius quam servo improbo.

Cleost.
Quid si ego impetro atque exoro a vilico, causa mea

ut eam illi permittat?

Lys.
Quid si ego autem ab armigero impetro,
ut eam illi permittat? atque hóc credo impetrassere.

Cleost.
Convenit. vin tuis Chalinum huc evocem verbis foras?
tú eum orato, ego autem orabo vilicum.

Lys.
Sane volo.

Cleost.
Iam hic erit. nunc experiemur, nostrum uter sit blandior. —

Lys.
Hercules dique istam perdant, quod nunc liceat dicere.
ego discrucior miser amore, illa autem quasi ob industriam
mi advorsatur. subolet hoc iam uxori quod ego machinor:
propter eam rem magis armigero dat operam de industria.
qui illum di omnes deaeque perdant.

Chalinvs
Te uxor aiebat tua
me vocare.

Lys.
Ego énim vocari iussi.

Chal.
Eloquere quid velis.

Lys.
Primum ego te porrectiore fronte volo mecum loqui;
stultitia est ei te esse tristem, cuius potestas plus potest.
probum te et frugi hominem iam pridem esse arbitror.

Chal.
Intellego.
quin, si ita arbitrare, emittis me manu?

Lys.
Quin id volo.
sed nihil est, me cupere factum, nisi tu factis adiuvas.

Chal.
Quid velis modo id velim me scire.

Lys.
Ausculta, ego eloquar.
Casinam ego uxorem promisi vilico nostro dare.

Chal.
At tua uxor filiusque promiserunt mihi.

Lys.
Scio.
sed utrum nunc tu caelibem te ésse mavis liberum
an maritum servom aetatem degere et gnatos tuos?
optio haec tua est: utram harum vis condicionem accipe.

Chal.
Liber si sim, meo periclo vivam; nunc vivo tuo.
de Casina certum est concedere homini nato nemini.

Lys.
Intro abi atque actutum uxorem huc evoca ante aedis cito,
et sitellam huc tecum efferto cúm aqua, et sortis.

Chal.
Satis placet.

Lys.
Ego pol istam iam aliquovorsum tragulam decidero.
nam si sic nihil impetrare potero, saltem sortiar.

ibi ego te et suffragatores tuos ulciscar.

Chal.

Attamen
mi obtinget sors.

Lys.
Vt quidem pol pereas cruciatu malo.

Chal.
Mi illa nubet, machinare quid lubet quo vis modo.

Lys.
Abin hinc ab oculis?

Chal.
Invitus me vides, vivam tamen. —

Lys.
Sumne ego miser homo? satin omnes res sunt advorsae mihi?
iam metuo, ne Olympionem mea uxor exoraverit
ne Casinam ducat: si id factum est, ecce me nullum senem;
si non impetravit, etiam specula in sortist mihi.
si sors autem decolassit, gladium faciam culcitam
eumque incumbam. sed progreditur optume eccum Olympio.

Olympio
Vna edepol opera in furnum calidum condito
atque ibi torreto me pro pane rubido,
era, qua istuc opera a me impetres quod postulas.

Lys.
Salvos sum, salva spes est, ut verba audio.

Ol.
Quid tu me tua, era, libertate territas?
qui si tu nolis filiusque etiam tuos,

vobis invitis atque amborum ingratiis
una libella liber possum fieri.

Lys.
Quid istúc est? quicum litigas, Olympio?

Ol.
Cum eadem qua tu semper.

Lys.
Cum uxoré mea?

Ol.
Quam tu mi uxorem? quasi venator tu quidem es:
dies átque noctes cum cane aetatem exigis.

Lys.
Quid agit, quid loquitur tecum?

Ol.
Orat, obsecrat,
ne Casinam uxorem ducam.

Lys.
Quid tu postea?

Ol.
Negavi enim ipsi me concessurum Iovi,
si is mecum oraret.

Lys.
Di te servassint mihi.

Ol.
Nunc in fermento totast, ita turget mihi.

Lys.
Ego edepol illam mediam diruptam velim.

Ol.
Credo edepol esse, siquidem tu frugi bonae es.
verum edepol tua mihi odiosa est amatio:
inimica est tua uxor mihi, inimicus filius,
inimici familiares.

Lys.
Quid id refert tua?
unus tibi hic dum propitius sit Iuppiter,
tu istos minutos cave deos flocci feceris.

Ol.
Nugae sunt istae magnae. quasi tu nescias,
repente ut emoriantur humani Ioves.
responde: si tu Iuppiter sis mortuos,
cum ad deos minoris redierit regnum tuom,
quis mihi subveniet tergo aut capiti aut cruribus?

Lys.
Opinione melius res tibi habeát tua,
si hoc impetramus, ut ego cum Casina cubem.

Ol.
Non hercle opinor posse, ita uxor acriter
tua instat, ne mihi detur.

Lys.
At ego sic agam:
coniciam sortis in sitellam et sortiar
tibi et Chalino. íta rem natam intellego:
necessum est vorsis gladiis depugnarier.

Ol.
Quid si sors aliter quam voles evenerit?

Lys.
Bene dice. dis sum fretus, deos sperabimus.

Ol.
Non ego istud verbum émpsim tittibilicio;
nam omnes mortales dis sunt freti, sed tamen
vidi ego dis fretos saepe multos decipi.

Lys.
St, táce parumper.

Ol.
Quid vis?

Lys.
Eccum exit foras
Chalinus intus cum sitella et sortibus.
nunc nos conlatis signis depugnabimus.

Cleostrata
Fáce, Chaline, certiorem me, quid meus vir me velit.

Chalinvs
Ille edepol videre ardentem te extra portam mortuam.

Cleost.
Credo ecastor velle.

Chal.
At pol ego hau credo, sed certo scio.

Lys.
Plus artificum est mihi quam rebar: hariolum hunc habeo domi.
quid si propius attollamus signa eamusque obviam?
sequere. quid vos agitis?

Chal.
Adsunt quae imperavisti omnia:
uxor, sortes, situla atque egomet.

Ol.

Te uno adest plus quam ego volo.

Chal.
Tibi quidem edepol ita videtur; stimulus ego nunc sum tibi,
fodico corculum; adsudascis iam ex metu, mastigia.

L.
Tace, Chaline.

Ch.
Comprime istum.

Ol.
Immo istunc, qui didicit dare.

Lys.
Adpone hic sitellam, sortis cedo mihi. animum advortite.
atque ego censui aps te posse hoc me impetrare, uxor mea,
Casina ut uxor mihi daretur; et nunc etiam censeo.

Cleost.
Tibi daretur illa?

Lys.
Mihi enim — ah, non id volui dicere:
dum mihi volui, huic dixi, atque adeo mihi dum cupio — perperam
iam dudum hercle fabulor.

Cleost.
Pol tu quidem, atque etiam facis.

Lys.
Huic — immo hercle mihi — vah, tandem redii vix veram in viam.

Cleost.
Per pol saepe peccas.

Lys.
Ita fit, ubi quid tanto opere expetas.
sed te uterque tuo pro iure, ego atque hic, oramus.

Cleost.
Quid est?

Lys.
Dicam enim, mea mulsa: de istac Casina huic nostro vilico
gratiam facias.

Cleost.
At pol ego néque facio neque censeo.

Lys.
Tum igitur ego sortis utrimque ... iam.

Cleost.
Quis votat?

Lys.
Optimum atque aequissimum istud esse iure iudico.
postremo, si illuc quod volumus eveniet, gaudebimus;
sin secus, patiemur animis aequis. tene sortem tibi.
vide quid scriptum est.

O.
Vnum.
Ch.
Iniquom est, quia isti prius quam mihi dedit.

Lys.
Accipe hanc sis.

Chal.
Cedo. mane, unum venit in mentem modo:
vide ne quae illic insit alia sortis sub aqua.

Lys.
Verbero,
men te censes esse?

Cleost.
Nulla est. habe quietum animum modo.

Chal.
Quod bonum atque fortunatum sit mihi —

Ol.
Magnum malum
tibi quidem edepol credo eveniet; novi pietatem tuam.
sed mane dum: num ista aut populna sors aut abiegnast tua?

Chal.
Quid tu id curas?

Ol.
Quia enim metuo, né in aqua summa natet.

Lys.
†Auge cave. conicite sortes nunciam ambo huc. eccere.
uxor, aequa.

Ol.
Noli uxori credere.

Lys.
Habe animum bonum.

Ol.
Credo hercle, hodie devotabit sortis si attigerit.

Lys.
Tace.

Ol.

Taceo. deos quaeso —

Chal.
Vt quidem tu hodie canem et furcam feras.

Ol.
Mihi ut sortito eveniat —

Chal.
Vt quidem hercle pedibus pendeas.

Ol.
At tu ut oculos emungare ex capite per nasum tuos.

Chal.
Quid times? paratum oportet esse iam laqueum tibi.

Ol.
Periisti.

L.
Animum advortite ambo.

O.
Taceo.

L.
Nunc tu, Cleostrata,
ne a me memores malitiose de hac re factum aut suspices,
tibi permitto: tute sorti.

Ol.
Perdis me.

Chal.
Lucrum facit.

Cleost.
Bene facis.

Chal.
Deos quaeso — ut tua sors ex sitella effugerit.

Ol.
Ain tu? quia tute es fugitivos, omnes te imitari cupis?
utinam tua quidem, sicut factum esse Herculeis praedicant
quondam prognatis, in sortiendo sors deliquerit.

Chal.
Tu ut liquescas ipse, actutum virgis calefactabere.

Lys.
Hoc age sis, Olympio.

Ol.
Si hic litteratus me sinat.

Lys.
Quod bonum atque fortunatum mihi sit.

Ol.
Ita vero, et mihi.

Chal.
Non.

Ol.
Immo hercle.

Chal.
Immo mihi hercle.

Cleost.
Hic vincet, tu vives miser.

Lys.
Percide os tu illi † hodie. age, ecquid fit? ne obiexis manum.

Ol.

Compressan palma an porrecta ferio?

Lys.
Age ut vis.

Ol.
Em tibi.

Cleost.
Quid tibi istunc tactio est.

Ol.
Quia Iuppiter iussit meus.

Cleost.
Feri malam, ut ille, rursum.

Ol.
Perii, pugnis caedor, Iuppiter.

Lys.
Quid tibi tactio hunc fuit?

Chal.
Quia iussit haec Iuno mea.

Lys.
Patiundum est, siquidem me vivo mea uxor imperium exhibet.

Cleost.
Tam huic loqui licere oportet quam isti.

Ol.
Cur omen mihi
vituperat?

Lys.
Malo, Chaline, tibi cavendum censeo.

Chal.
Temperi, postquam oppugnatum est os.

Lys.
Age, uxor, nunciam
sorti. vos advortite animum. prae metu ubi sim nescio.
perii, cor lienósum, opinor, habeo, iam dudum salit,
de labore pectus tundit.

Cleost.
Teneo sortem.

Lys.
Ecfer foras.

Ch.
Iamne mortuo's?

Ol.
Ostende. mea haec est.

Ch.
Mala crux éast quidem.

Cleost.
Victus es, Chaline.

Lys.
Cum nos di iuvere, Olympio,
gaudeo.

Ol.
Pietate factum est mea atque maiorum meum.

Ly.
Intro abi, uxor, atque adorna nuptias.

Cleost.

Faciam ut iubes.

Lys.
Scin tu rus hinc esse ad villam longe quo ducat?

Cleost.
Scio.

L.
Intro abi et, quamquam hoc tibi aegre est, tamen fac accures.

CL.

Licet. —

Lys.
Eamus nos quoque intro, hortemur ut properent.

O.
Numquid moror? —

Lys.
Nam praesente hoc plura verba fieri non desidero. —

Chalinvs
Si nunc me suspendam, meam operam luserim
et praeter operam restim sumpti fecerim
et meis inimicis voluptatem creaverim.
quid opus est, qui sic mortuos? equidem tamen
sorti sum victus, Casina nubet vilico.
atque id non tam aegrest iam, vicisse vilicum,
quam id expetivisse opere tam magno senem,
ne ea mihi daretur atque ut illi nuberet.
ut illé trepidabat, ut festinabat miser;
ut sussultabat, postquam vicit vilicus.
attat, concedam huc, audio aperiri foris,
mei benevolentes atque amici prodeunt.
hinc ex insidiis hisce ego insidias dabo.

Olympio
Sine modo rus veniat: ego remittam ad te virum
cum furca in urbem tamquam carbonarium.

Lysidamvs
Ita fieri oportet.

Ol.
Factum et curatum dabo.

Lys.
Volui Chalinum, si domi esset, mittere
tecum obsonatum, ut etiam in maerore insuper
inimico nostro miseriam hanc adiungerem.

Chal.
Recessim cedam ad parietem, imitabor nepam;
captandust horum clanculum sermo mihi.
nam illorum me alter cruciat, alter macerat.
at candidatus cedit hic mastigia,
stimulorum loculi. protollo mortem mihi;
certum est, hunc Acheruntem praemittam prius.

Ol.
Vt tibi ego inventus sum obsequens. quod maxime
cupiebas, eius copiam feci tibi.
erit hodie tecum quod amas clam uxorem.

Lys.
Tace.
ita me di bene ament, ut ego vix reprimo labra
ob istánc rem quin te deosculer, voluptas mea.

Chal.
Quid, deosculere? quae res? quae voluptas tua?
ecfodere hercle hic volt, credo, vesicam vilico.†

Ol.

Ecquid amas nunc me?

Lys.
Immo edepol me quam te minus.
licetne amplecti te?

Chal.
Quid, amplecti?

Ol.
Licet.

Lys.
Vt, quia te tango, mel mihi videor lingere.

Ol.
Vltro te, amator, apage te a dorso meo.

Chal.
Illuc est, illuc, quod hic hunc fecit vilicum:
eidem me pridem, cum ei advorsum veneram,
facere atriensem voluerat sub ianua.

Ol.
Vt tibi morigerus hodie, ut voluptati fui.

Lys.
Vt tibi, dum vivam, bene velim plus quam mihi.

Chal.
Hodie hercle, opinor, hi conturbabunt pedes:
solet hic barbatos sane sectari senex.

Lys.
Vt ego hodie Casinam deosculabor, ut mihi
bona multa faciam clam meam uxorem.

Chal.

Attatae,
nunc pol ego demum in rectam redii semitam.
hic ipsus Casinam deperit. habeo viros.

Lys.
Iam hercle amplexari, iam osculari gestio.

Ol.
Sine prius deduci. quid, malum, properas?

Lys.
Amo.

Ol.
At non opinor fieri hoc posse hodie.

Lys.
Potest,
siquidém cras censes te posse emitti manu.

Chal.
Enim véro huc aures magis sunt adhibendae mihi:
iam ego uno in saltu lepide apros capiam duos.

Lys.
Apud hunc sodalem meum atque vicinum mihi
locus est paratus: ei ego amorem omnem meum
concredui; is mihi se locum dixit dare.

Ol.
Quid eius uxor? ubi erit?

Lys.
Lepide repperi.
mea uxór vocabit huc eam ad se in nuptias,
ut hic sit secum, se adiuvet, secum cubet;
ego iussi, et dixit se facturam uxor mea.
illa hic cubabit, vir aberit faxo domo;

tu rus uxorem duces: id rus hic erit
tantisper dum égo cum Casina faciam nuptias.
hinc tu ante lucem rus cras duces postea.
satin docte?

Ol.
Astute.

Chal.
Age modo, fabricamini,
malo hercle vestro tam vorsuti vivitis.

Lys.
Scin quid nunc facias?

Ol.
Loquere.

Lys.
Tene marsuppium,
abi atque obsona, propera, sed lepide volo,
molliculas escas, út ipsa mollicula est.

Ol.
Licet.

Lys.
Emito sepiolas, lepadas, lolligunculas,
hordeías.

Chal.
Immo triticeías, si sapis.

Lys.
Soleas.

Chal.
Qui quaeso potius quam sculponeas,

quibus báttuatur tíbi os, senex nequissime?

Ol.
Vin lingulacas?

Lys.
Quid opust, quando uxor domi est?
ea lingulaca est nobis, nam numquam tacet.

Ol.
In re praesenti ex copia piscaria
consulere quid emam potero.

Lys.
Aéquom oras, abi.
argento parci nolo, obsonato ampliter.
nam mihi vicino hoc etiam convento est opus,
ut quod mandavi curet.

Ol.
Iamne abeo?

Lys.
Volo. —

Chal.
Tribus nón conduci possum libertatibus,
quin ego illis hodie comparem magnum malum
quinque hanc omnem rem meae erae iam faciam palam.
manifesto teneo in noxia inimicos meos.
sed si nunc facere volt era officium suom,
nostra omnis lis est. pulchre praevortar viros.
nostro omine it dies; iam victi vicimus.
ibo intro, ut id quod alius condivit cocus,
ego nunc vicissim ut alio pacto condiam,
quo id quoi paratum est ut paratum ne siet
sitque ei paratum quod paratum non erat. —

ACT III.

Lysidamvs
Núnc amici ánne inimici sís imago, Alcésime,
mihi sciam, nunc specimen specitur, nunc certamen cernitur.
cur amem me castigare, id ponito ad compendium,
'cano capite' 'aetate aliena' eo addito ad compendium,
'cui sit uxor' id quoque illuc ponito ad compendium.

Alcesimvs
Miseriorem ego ex amore quam te vidi neminem.

Lys.
Fac vacent aedes.

Alc.

Quin edepol servos, ancillas domo
certum est omnis mittere ad te.

Lys.
Oh, nimium scite scitus es.
sed facito dum merula † pervorsus quos cantat colas:
cum cibo suo quique facito ut veniant, quasi eant Sutrium.

Alc.

Meminero.

Lys.
Em, nunc enim te demum nullum scitum scitiust.
cura, ego ad forum modo ibo: iam hic ero.

Alc.

Bene ambula.

Lys.

Fac habeant linguam tuae aedes.

A.
Quid ita?

L.
Cum veniam, vocent.

Alc.

Attatae, caedundus tú homo es: nimias delicias facis.

Lys.
Quid me amare refert, nisi sim doctus ac dicaculus?
sed tu cave in quaesitione mihi sis. —

Alc.

Vsque adero domi. —

Cleostrata
Hoc erat ecastor quod me vir tanto opere orabat meus,
ut properarem arcessere hanc huc ad me vicinam meam,
liberae aedes ut sibi essent, Casinam quo deducerent.
nunc adeo nequaquam arcessam, ne illis ignavissumis
liberi loci potestas sit, vetulis vervecibus.
sed eccum égreditur, senati columen, praesidium popli,
meus vicinus, meo viro qui liberum praehibet locum.
non ecastor vilis emptu est, modio qui venit salis.

Alcesimvs
Miror huc iam non arcessi in proxumum uxorem meam,
quae iam dudum, si arcessatur, ornata exspectat domi.
sed eccam, opino arcessit. salve, Cleostrata.

Cleost.
Et tu, Alcesime.
ubi tua uxor?

Alc.

Intus illa te, si se arcessas, manet;
nam tuos vir me orávit, ut eam ístuc ad te adiutum mitterem.
vin vocem?

Cleost.
Sine eam ... nolo si occupata est.

Alc.

Otium est.

Cleost.
Nil moror, molesta ei esse nolo; post convenero.

Alc.

Non ornatis istic apud vos nuptias?

Cleost.
Orno et paro.

Alc.

Non ergo opus est adiutrice?

Cleost.
Satis domist. ubi nuptiae
fuerint, tum istam convenibo. nunc vale, atque istanc iube. —

Alc.

Quid ego nunc faciam? flagitium maxumum feci miser,
propter operam illius hirqui ímprobi, edéntuli,
qui hoc mihí contraxit; operam uxoris polliceor foras,
quasi catillatum. flagitium hóminis, qui dixit mihi
suam úxorem hanc arcessituram esse; éa se eam négat morarier.
atque edepol mirum ni subolet iam hoc huic vicinae meae.

verum autem altrovorsum quóm eam mecum rationem puto,
si quid eius esset, esset mecum postulatio.
ibo intro, ut subducam navim rusum in pulvinaria. —

Cleost.
Iám hic est lepide ludificatus. miseri ut festinant senes.
nunc ego illúm nihili decrepitum meum virum veniat velim,
ut eum ludificem vicissim, postquam hunc delusi alterum.
nam ego aliquid contrahere cupio litigi inter eos duos.
sed eccum incedit. at, quom aspicias tristem, frugi censeas.

Lysidamvs
Stultitia magna est, mea quidem sententia,
hominem amatorem ullum ad forum procedere,
in eum diem quoi quod amet in mundo siet;
sicut ego feci stultus: contrivi diem,
dum asto advocatus cuidam cognato meo;
quem hercle ego litem adeo perdidisse gaudeo,
ne me nequiquam sibi hodie advocaverit.
nam meo quidem animo qui advocatos advocet
rogitare oportet prius et percontarier,
adsitne ei animus necne adsit, quem ádvocet:
si neget adesse, exanimatum amittat domum.
sed uxorem ante aedis eccam. ei misero mihi,
metuo ne non sit surda atque haec audiverit.

Cleost.
Audivi ecastor cum malo magno tuo.

Lys.
Accedam propius. quid agis, mea festivitas?

Cleost.
Te ecastor praestolabar.

Lys.
Iamne ornata res?
iamne hanc traduxti huc ad nos vicinam tuam,

quae te adiutaret?

Cleost.
Arcessivi, ut iusseras.
verum hic sodalis tuos, amicus optumus,
nescio quid se sufflavit uxori suae:
negavit posse, quoniam arcesso, mittere.

Lys.
Vitium tibi istuc maxumum est, blanda es parum.

Cleost.
Non matronarum officiumst, sed meretricium,
viris alienis, mi vir, subblandirier.
i tu atque arcesse illam: égo intus quod factost opus
volo accurare, mi vir.

Lys.
Propera ergo.

Cleost.
Licet.
iam pol ego huic aliquem in pectus iniciam metum;
miserrumum hodie ego hunc habebo amasium. —

Alcesimvs
Viso huc, amator si a foro rediit domum,
qui me atque uxorem ludificatust, larua.
sed eccum ante aedis. ad te hercle ibam commodum.

Lys.
Et hercle ego ad te. quid ais, vir minimi preti?
quid tibi mandavi? quid tecum oravi?

Alc.

Quid est?

Lys.
Vt bene vocivas aedis fecisti mihi,
ut traduxisti huc ad nos uxorem tuam.
satin propter te pereo ego atque occasio?

Alc.

Quin tu suspendis te? nempe túte dixeras,
tuam arcessituram esse uxorem uxorem meam.

Lys.
Ergo arcessivisse ait sese, et dixisse te
eam nón missurum.

Alc.

Quin eapse ultro mihi
negavit eius operam se morarier.

Lys.
Quin eapse me adlegavit, qui istam arcesserem.

Alc.

Quin nihili facio.

Lys.
Quin me perdis.

Alc.

Quin benest,
quin etiam diu morabor, quin cupio tibi —

Lys.
Quin —

Alc.

Aliquid aegre facere.

Lys.
Quin faciam lubens.
numquam tibi hodie ‘quin’ erit plus quam mihi.

Alc.

Quin hercle di te perdant postremo quidem.

Lys.
Quid nunc? missurusne es ad me uxorem tuam?

Alc.

Ducas, easque in maxumam malam crucem
cum hác cum ístac, cumque amica etiam tua.
abi et aliud cura, ego iam per hortum iussero
meam istúc transire uxorem ad uxorem tuam. —

Lys.
Nunc tu mi amicus es in germanum modum.
qua ego hunc amorem mi esse avi dicam datum
aut quid ego umquam erga Venerem inique fecerim,
cui sic tot amanti mi obviam eveniant morae?
attat,
quid illúc clamoris, opsecro, in nostrast domo?

Pardalisca
Núlla sum, núlla sum, tóta, tota óccidi,
cor metu mortuomst, membra miserae tremunt,
nescio unde auxili, praesidi, perfugi
mi aut opis copiam comparem aut expetam:
tanta factu modo mira miris modis
intus vidi, novam atque integram audaciam.
cave tibi, Cleostrata, apscede ab ista, opsecro,
né quid in té mali fáxit ira pércita.
eripite isti gladium, quae suist impos animi.

Lys.
Nam quid est quod haec huc timida atque exanimata exsiluit foras?

Pardalisca.
Par.
Perii, unde meae usurpant aures sonitum?

Lys.
Respice modo ad me.

Par.
O ere mi —

Lys.
Quid tibi est? quid timida es?

Par.
Perii.

Lys.
Quid, periisti?

Par.
Perii, et tu periisti.

L.
A, perii? quid ita?

Par.
Vae tibi.

L.
Immo, vae tibi sit.

P.
Ne cadam, amabo, tene me.

Lys.

Quidquid est, eloquere mihi cito.

Par.
Contine pectus,
face véntum, amabo, pállio.

Lys.
Timeo hóc negoti quíd siet,
nisi haéc meraclo se úspiam percússit flore Liberi.

Par.
Óptine aurís, amabo.

Lys.
I ín malam a mé crucem,
péctus, aurís, caput téque di pérduint,
nám nisi ex té scio, quídquid hoc ést, cito, hoc
iám tibi istúc cerebrúm dispércutiam, éxcetra tu,
ludibrio pessuma adhuc quae me habuisti.

Par.
Ere mí —

Lys.
Quid vis mea me áncilla?

Par.
Nimiúm saevis.

Lys.
Numeró dicis.
sed hóc quidquid ést eloquere, ín pauca cónfer:
quid íntus tumúlti fuít?

Par.
Scibis, aúdi.
malúm pessumúmque hic modo intus ápud nos
tua áncilla hoc pácto exordíri coépit,

quod haúd Atticám condecét disciplínam.

Lys.
Quid ést id?

Par.
Timór praepedít dicta línguae.

Lys.
Possúm scire ego ístuc ex té quid negótist?

Par.
Dicam.
tua áncilla, quám tu tuó vilicó vis
dare úxorem, ea íntus —

Lys.
Quid íntus? quid ést?

Par.
Imitátur malárum malám disciplínam,
viró quae suo íntermínetur: vitam —

Lys.
Quid érgo?

Par.
Ah —

L.
Quid ést?

P.
Interémere ait vélle vitam,
gladium —

Lys.
Hém.

Par.
Gladium —

Lys.
Quid eúm gladium?

Par.
Habet.

Lys.
Eí misero mihi, cúr eum habet?

Par.
Inséctatur ómnis domí per aedis,
nec quémquam prope ád se sínit adire:
ita ómnes sub árcis, sub léctis laténtes
metú mussitánt.

Lys.
Occidi átque intérii.
quidílli obiéctumst malí tam repénte?

Par.
Insánit.

Lys.
Sceléstissimum me esse crédo.

Par.
Immó si sciás dicta quaé dixit hódie —

Lys.
Istúc expetó scire. quíd dixit?

Par.
Aúdi.
per ómnis deós et deás deierávit,
occísurum eum hác nocte quícum cubáret.

Lys.
Men óccidet?

Par.
Án quippiam ád te attinét?

Lys.
Vah.

Par.
Quid cúm ea negóti tibíst?

L.
Peccavi:
illúc diceré, vilicúm, volébam.

Par.
Sciéns de via ín semitám degrédere.

Lys.
Numquíd mihi minátur?

Par.
Tibi ínfesta solist
plús quam cuiquam.

L.
Quam ob rem?

P.
Quia se dés uxorem Olýmpioni,
neque se tuam nec se suam neque viri vitam sinere in
crástinum protólli: id huc míssa sum tibi ut dícerem,
áb ea uti caveás tibi.

Lys.
Perii hércle egó miser.

Par.
Dígnus es.

Lys.
Neque ést neque fuít me senéx quisquam amátor
adaéque misér.

Par.
Ludo ego húnc facete;
nam quaé facta díxi omnia huíc falsa díxi:
era átque haec dolum éx proxumo húnc protulérunt,
ego húnc missa súm ludere.

Lys.
Heús Pardalísca.

Par.
Quid ést?

Lys.
Est —

P.
Quid?

L.
Ést quod volo éxquirere éx te.

Par.
Moram óffers mihi.

Lys.
Át tu mihi óffers maerórem.
sed étiamne habét nunc Cásina gladium?

Par.
Habét, sed duós.

Lys.
Quid, duós?

Par.
Alteró te
occísurum aít, alteró vilicum hódie.

Lys.
Occísissimús sum omniúm qui vivont.
lorícam induám mi optumum ésse opinor.
quid úxor mea? nón adiit átque ademit?

Par.
Nemo aúdet prope áccedere.

Lys.
Éxoret.

Par.
Órat:
negát ponere álio modo úllo profécto,
nisí se sciát vilicó non datum íri.

Lys.
Atque íngratiís, quia non vólt, nubet hódie.
nam quór non ego íd perpetrém quod coépi,
ut núbat mihi? íllud quidém volebam,
nostró vilico.

Par.
Saepícule peccas.

Lys.
Timór praepedít verba. vérum, obsecró te,
dic méd uxorem órare ut éxoret íllam,
gládium ut ponat ét redire me íntro ut liceat.

Par.

Núntiabo.

L.
Ét tu orato.

P.
Et ego órabo.

L.
At blande órato, ut solés. sed audin?
si efféxis hoc, soleás tibi dabo, et ánulum in digitum aúreum et bona plúruma.

Par.
Operám dabo.

Lys.
Face ut ímpetres.

Par.
Eo núnciam, nisi quíppiam
remoráre me.

Lys.
Abi et cúra.
redit éccum tandem opsónatu meus ádiutor, pompám ducit.

Olympio
Vide, fúr, sentis súb signis ducás.

Citrio
Qui vero hi súnt sentis?

Ol.
Quia quód tetigere, ilíco rapiunt, si eás ereptum, ilíco scindunt:
ita quóquo adveniunt, úbiubi sunt, duplicí damno dominós multant.

Cit.

Heia.

Ol.
Áttat. cesso mágnufice patriciéque amicirier átque ita ero meo ire ádvorsum?

Lys.
Bone vír, salve.

Ol.
Fateór.

Lys.
Quid fit?

Ol.
Tu amás: ego ésurio et sitio.

Lys.
Lepide éxcuratus incéssisti.

Ol.
Aha, hodie ...

Lys.
Mane véro, quamquam fástidis.

Ol.
Fu fú, fetet tuos míhi sermo.

Lys.
Quae rés?

Ol.
Haec res. etiámne adstas? enim véro πράγματά μοι παρέχεις.

Lys.
Dabo tibi μέγα κακόν,
ut ego opinor, nisi resistis.

Ol.
ὦ ... ζεῦ,
potin a me abeas, nisi me vis vomere hodie?

Lys.
Máne.

Ol.
Quid est? quis hic ést homo?

Lys.
Erus súm.

Ol.
Quis erus?

Lys.
Cuius tú servo's.

Ol.
Servós ego?

Lys.
Atqué meus.

Ol.
Non súm ego líber?
meménto, meménto.

Lys.
Mane átque asta.

Ol.
Omítte.

Lys.
Servós sum tuós.

Ol.

Optumést.

Lys.
Opsecró te,
Olýmpisce mí, mi patér, mi patróne.

Ol.
Em,
sapis sáne.

Lys.
Tuos sum équidem.

Ol.
Quid mi ópust servo tam néquam?

Lys.
Quid núnc? quam mox recreás me?

Ol.
Cená modo si sit cócta.

L.
Hisce érgo abeant.

O.
Properé cito intró ite ét cito deproperáte.
ego iam íntus ero, facite cenam mihi ut ebria sit.
séd lepide nitidéque volo, níl moror barbaricó bliteo.
stasne etiam? i sis, ego hic habeo. numquid est ceterum quod morae sit?

Lys.
Gladiúm Casinam intus habére ait, qui me átque te intérimat.

Ol.
Scio. síc sine habére;
nugás agunt: nóvi

ego illás malas mérces.
quin tu í modo mécum
domum.

Lys.
At pól malum métuo.
i tú modo, perspicitó prius quid íntus agátur.

Ol.
Tam míhi mea víta
quam túa tibi cárast.
verum í modo.

Lys.
Si tú iubes, em íbitur tecum.

ACT IV.

Pardalisca
Nec pol ego Nemeae credo neque ego Olympiae
neque usquam ludos tam festivos fieri
quam hic intus fiunt ludi ludificabiles
seni nóstro et nostro Olympioni vilico.
omnes festinant intus totis aedibus,
senex ín culina clamat, hortatur coquos:
“quin agitis hodie? quin datis, si quid datis?
properate, cenam iam esse coctam oportuit.”
vilicus is autem cum corona, candide
vestitus, lautus exornatusque ambulat.
illae autem armigerum in cubiculo exornant duae,
quem dent pro Casina nuptum nostro vilico.
sed nimium lepide dissimulant, quasi nil sciant
fore huius quod futurumst; digne autem coqui
nimis lépide ei rei dant operam, ne cenet senex,
aulas pervortunt, ignem restingunt aqua:
illarum oratu faciunt; illae autem senem
cupiunt extrudere incenatum ex aedibus,
ut ipsae solae ventres distendant suos.
novi ego illas ambestrices: corbitam cibi
comesse possunt. sed aperitur ostium.

Lysidamvs
Si sapitis, uxor, vos tamen cenabitis,
cena ubi erit cocta; égo ruri cenavero.
nam novom maritum ét novam nuptam volo
rus prosequi, novi hominum mores maleficos,
ne quis eam abripiat. facite vostro animo volup.
sed properate istum atque istam actutum emittere,
tandem ut † veniamus luci; égo cras hic ero.
cras habuero, uxor, ego tamen convivium.

Par.

Fit quod futurum dixi: incenatum senem
foras extrudunt mulieres.

Lys.
Quid tu hic agis?

Par.
Ego eo quo me ipsa misit.

Lys.
Veron?

Par.
Serio.

Lys.
Quid hic speculare?

Par.
Nil equidem speculor.

Lys.
Abi:
tu hic cunctas, intus alii festinant.

Par.
Eo. —

Lys.
Abi hinc sis ergo, pessumarum pessuma.
iamne abiit illaec? dicere hic quidvis licet.
qui amat, tamen hercle, si esurit, nullum esurit.
sed eccúm progreditur cum corona et lampade
meus socius, compar, commaritus vilicus.

Olympio
Áge tibicen, dum íllam educunt húc novam nuptám foras,
suavi cantu concelebra omnem hanc plateam hymenaeo.

hymen hymenaee o hymen.

Lys.
Quid agis, mea salus?

Ol.
Esurio hercle, atque adeo hau salubriter.

Lys.
At ego amó.

Ol.
At ego hercle nihili facio. tibi amor pro cibost,
mihi ieiunitate iam dudum intestina murmurant.

Lys.
Nam quid illaéc nunc tam diu intus remorantur remeligines?
quasi ob industriam, quanto ego plus propero, procedit minus.

Ol.
Quid si etiam suffundam hymenaeum, si qui citius prodeant?

Lys.
Censeo, et ego te adiutabo in nuptiis communibus.

Lys. Ol.
Hymen hymenaee o hymen.

Lys.
Perii hercle ego miser, dirumpi hymenaeum cantando licet:
illo morbo quo dirumpi cupio, non est copia.

Ol.
Edepol ne tu, sí equos esses, esses indomabilis.

Lys.
Quo argumento?

O.

Nimis tenax es.

L.
Num me expertu's uspiam?

Ol.
Di melius faciant. sed crepuit ostium, exitur foras.

Lys.
Di hercle me cupiunt servatum. iam oboluit Casinus procul.

Pardalisca
Sensim supera tolle limen pedes, mea nova nupta;
sospes iter incipe hoc, uti viro tuo
sémper sis superstes,
tuaque út potior polléntia sit vincásque virum victríxque sies,
tua vóx superet tuomque imperium: vir te vestiat, tu virum despolies.
noctúque et diu ut viro súbdola sis,
ópsecro, memento.

Ol.
Malo máxumo suo hercle ílico, ubi tántillum peccássit.

Lys.
Tace.

Ol.
Nón taceo.

L.
Quae rés?

O.
Mala malaé male monstrat.

Lys.
Faciés tu hanc rém mi ex paráta imparátam.

id quaérunt volúnt, haec ut ínfecta fáciant.

Par.
Age Olýmpio, quando vís, uxorem
áccipe hanc ab nobis.

Ol.
Date érgo, datúrae si umquam éstis hodie.

Lys.
Abíte intro.

Par.
Amábo, integrae átque imperítae huic
impército.

Ol.
Futurum est.

Par.
Valéte.

Ol.
Ite iám.

Lys.
Ite.

Par.
Iám valete.

Lys.
Iamne ábscessit úxor?

Ol.
Domíst, ne time.

Lys.
Eúax,

nunc pól demum ego sum líber.
meúm corculúm, melculúm, verculum.

Ol.
Heús tu,
malo, sí sapies, cavébis;
meást haec.

Lys.
Sció, sed meus fructus est prior.

Ol.
Tene hánc lampadem.

Lys.
Ímmo ego hánc tenebo.
Venus múltipotens, bona múlta mihi
dedísti, huius cúm copiám mihi dedísti.

Ol.
O
corpúsculum malaculum,
mea uxórcula. quae res?

Lys.
Quid est?

Ol.
Ínstitit plantam
quasi lúca bos.

Lys.
Tacé sis,
nebula haúd est mollis aeque atque huius pectus est.

Ol.
Edepol papillam bellulam — ei misero mihi.

Lys.
Quid est?

Ol.
Péctus mi icit non cubito, verum ariete.

Lys.
Quid tu ergo hanc, quaeso, tractas tam dura manu?
at mihi, qui belle hanc tracto, non bellum facit.

Ol.
Vah.

Lys.
Quid negotist?

Ol.
Opsecro, ut valentulast,
paene exposivit cubito.

Lys.
Cubitum ergo ire volt.

Ol.
Quin imus ergo?

Lys.
I, belle belliatula. —

ACT V.

Myrrhina
Accéptae bene ét commode éximus íntus
ludós visere húc in viam nuptiális.
numquam écastor úllo dié risi adaéque,
neque hóc quod relícuom est plus rísuram opínor.

Pardalisca
Lúbet Chalinum quíd agat scire, nóvom nuptum cum nóvo marito.

Myrr.
Nec fállaciam ástutiórem ullus fécit
poéta, atque ut haéc est fabré facta ab nóbis.

Cleostrata
Optúnso ore núnc pervelím progredíri
seném, quo senéx nequiór nullus vívit.
ne illum quidem
néquiorem árbitror ésse, qui locum
praébet illí ... té nunc praesidem
volo híc, Pardalísca, esse, qui hínc exeat
eum ut lúdibrio hábeas.

Par.
Libens fecero et solens.

Myrr.
... spectato: hinc omnia, intus quid agant ...

Pard.
... pone me, amabo.

Myrr.
Et ibi audacius licet
quaé velis líbere próloqui.

Pard.
Tace,
vostrá foris crépuit.

Olympio
Neque quó fugiam neque ubí lateam neque hoc dédecus quo modo célem
scio, tántum erus atque ego flágitio superávimus nuptiis nóstris,
ita núnc pudeo atque ita núnc paveo atque ita inrídiculo sumus ámbo.
sed ego ínsipiens nova núnc facio: pudet quém prius non puditum úmquamst.
operám date, dum mea fácta itero: est operaé pretium auribus áccipere,
ita rídicula auditu, íteratu ea súnt quae ego intus túrbavi.
ubi intro hánc novam nuptam déduxi, rectá via in conclave ábduxi.
sed ténebrae ibi erant tamquam ín puteo; dum sénex abest ‘decumbe’ ínquam.
cónloco fúlcio móllio blándior,
út prior quám senex núptias pérpetrem.
tárdus esse ílico coépi, quoniam ...
respecto identidem, ne senex ...
inlecebram stupri principio eam savium posco,
réppulit míhi manum, néque enim dare sibi sávium me sivit.
enim iám magis adproperó, magis iam libet ín Casinam inruere ...
cupio íllam operam seni súrripere, forem óbdo, ne senex me ópprimeret.

Myrr.
Ágedum, tuadi hunc.

Cleos.
Ópsecro, ubi túa nova núptast?

Ol.
Perii hércle ego, manifésta res.

Cleos.

Omnem órdine rem
fatéri ergo aequom est. quíd intus agitur? quíd agit Casina?
satin mórigera est?

Ol.
Pudet dícere.

Cleos.
Memora órdine, ut occéperas.

Ol.
Pudet hércle.

Cleos.
Age audacter ...
postquám decubuisti, índe volo memoráre quid est factum ...

Ol.
... flagitium est.

Cleos.
Cavebunt qui audierint. faciant ...

Ol.
... hoc magnus est.

Cleos.
Perdis. quin tu pergis?

Ol.

Vbi

... us suptus porro ...

Cleos.
Quid?

Ol.

Babae.

Cleos.
Quid?

Ol.
Papae.

Cleos.
... est?

Ol.
Oh, erat maximum.
... ferrum ne haberet metui: id quaerere occepi ...
dum gladium quaero, ... ne habeat, arripio capulum.
séd cum cogitó, non habuit gládium, nam esset frígidus.

Cl.

Éloquere.

Ol.
At pudét.

Cl.

Num radix fúit,

Ol.
Non fuít.

CL.

Num cucumis?

Ol.
Profecto hercle ... non fuit quicquam holerum,
nisí, quidquid erat, cálamitas profécto attigerat númquam.
íta, quidquid erat, grande erat.

Myrr.
Quíd fit denique? edisserta.

Ol.
Vbi appello Casinam, †inquit
“amábo, mea uxórcula, cur vírum tuom sic me spérnis?
nimis tú quidem hercle immérito
meó mi haec facís, quia mihí te expetívi.”
ílla haud verbum fácit et saepit véste id qui estis múlieres.
úbi illum saltum vídeo opsaeptum, rógo ut alteró sinat ire.
volo, ut obvertam, cubitis im ...
ullum muttit e ...
surgo, ut in eam in ...
atque illam in ...

Myrr.
Perlepide narrat ...

Ol.
Savium ...
itá quasi saetis lábra mihi compúngit barba,
contínuo in genua ut ástiti, pectús mihi pedibus pércutit.
decído de lecto praécipes: subsílit, optundit ós mihi.
indé foras tacitus prófugiens exeo hóc ornatu quó vides,
ut sénex hoc eodem póculo, quo egó bibi, biberet.

Cleos.
Óptume est.
séd ubi est palliolúm tuom?

Ol.
Hic íntus relíqui.

Cleos.
Quid núnc? satin lepide adita est vobís manus?

Ol.
Mérito.

séd concrepuerúnt fores. num illa mé nunc séquitur?

Lysidamvs
Máxumo ego ardeo flágitio néc quid agam meis rébus scio,
néc meam ut uxorem áspiciam cóntra oculis, ita dísperii;
ómnia palam súnt probra,
ómnibus modis óccidi miser.
... ita mánufesto faucíbus teneor
... nec quibus modis purgem scio me meae uxori.
... atque expálliatus súm miser,
... clandestinae núptiae.
... censeo
... mihi optumum est.
... intro ad uxorem meam
súfferamque eí meum térgum ob iniúriam.
séd ecquis est quí homo munús velit fúngier
pró me? quid núnc agam néscio, nisi ut ímprobos
famulos imiter ac domo fugiam.
nam salus nulla est scapulis, si domum redeo.
... nugas istic dicere licet. vapulo hercle ego invitus tamen
etsi malum merui.
hac dabo protinam me et fugiam.

Chal.
Heus, sta ílico, amátor.

Lys.
Óccidi, revocór: quasi non aúdiam, abíbo.

Chal.
Úbi tu es, qui cólere mores Mássilienses póstulas?
nunc tu si vis subigitare me, probast occasio.
redi sis in cubiculum; periisti hercle. age, accede huc modo.
nunc ego tecum aequom arbitrum extra considium captavero.

Lys.
Perii, fusti defloccabit iam illic homo lumbos meos.

hac iter faciundumst, nam illac lumbifragiumst obviam.

Cleos.
Iubeo te salvere, amator.

Lys.
Ecce autem uxor obviamst:
nunc ego intér sacrum saxumque sum nec quo fugiam scio.
hac lupi, hac canes: lupina scaeva fusti rem gerit;
hercle opinor permutabo ego illuc nunc verbum vetus:
hac ibo, caninam scaevam spero meliorem fore.

Myrr.
Quid agis, dismarite?

Cleos.
Mi vir, unde hoc ornatu advenis?
quid fecisti scipione aut quod habuisti pallium?

Myrr.
In adulterio, dum moechissat Casinam, credo perdidit.

Lys.
Occidi.

Ch.
Etiamne imus cubitum? Casina sum.

L.
I in malam crucem.

Chal.
Non amas me?

Cleos.
Quin responde, tuo quid factum est pallio?

Lys.

Bacchae hercle, uxor —

Cleos.
Bacchae?

Lys.
Bacchae hercle, uxor —

Myrr.
Nugatur sciens,
nam ecastor nunc Bacchae nullae ludunt.

Lys.
Oblitus fui,
sed tamén Bacchae —

Cleos.
Quid, Bacchae?

Lys.
Sin id fieri non potest —

Cleos.
Times ecastor.

Lys.
Egone?

Cl.

Mentire hercle. nam palles male.
n%**1** ..... quid me v%**1**e%**1** .... u%**1**s%**1** ..... am me rog%**1**a%**1**s?
... m%**1**a%**1**l%**1**e%**1** r%**1** ... mihi
... g%**1**r%**1**atulor.
... q%**1**u%**1** ... s%**1**e%**1**n%**1**ex
h%**1**o%**1** ... o%**1**n%**1** ... u%

... u%**1**n%**1**c%**1** ca%**1**sin%**1**u%**1**st | %**41** |
qui%**1** h%**1**i%**1**c%**1** ... lem frus ..... r%**1**a%**1**m .. d%**1**i%**1**s
(Ol.)
qui étiam me miserum famosum fecit flagitiis suis.

Lys.
Non taces?

Ol.
Non herle vero taceo. nam tu maxumo
me opsecravisti opere, Casinam ut poscerem uxorem mihi
túi amoris causa.

Lys.
Ego istuc feci?

Ol.
Immo Hector Ilius
te quidem oppresset.

Lys.
Feci égo istaec dicta quae vos dicitis?

Cleos.
Rogitas etiam?

Lys.
Si quidem hercle feci, feci nequiter.

Cleos.
Redi modo huc intro: monebo, si qui meministi minus.

Lys.
Hercle, opinor, potius vobis credam quod vos dicitis.
sed, uxor, da viro tuo hanc veniam. Myrrhina, ora Cleostratam;
si umquam posthac aut amasso Casinam aut occepso modo,
ne ut eam amasso, sí ego umquam adeo posthac tale admisero
nulla causast, quin pendentem me, uxor, virgis verberes.

Myrr.
Censeo ecastor veniam hanc dandam.

Cleos.
Faciam ut iubes.
propter eam rem hanc tibi nunc veniam minus gravate prospero,
hanc ex longa longiorem ne faciamus fabulam.

Lys.
Non irata es?

Cleos.
Non sum irata.

Lys.
Tuaen fidei credo?

CL.

Meae.
Lys.
Lepidiorem uxorem nemo quisquam quam ego habeo hanc habet.

Cleos.
Age tu, redde huic scipionem et pallium.

Chal.
Tene, si lubet.
mihi quidem edepol insignite factast magna iniuria:
duobus nupsi, neuter fecit quod novae nuptae solet.
Spectatores, quod futurumst intus, id memorabimus.
haec Casina huius reperietur filia esse ex proxumo
eaque nubet Euthynico nostro erili filio.
nunc vos aequomst manibus meritis meritam mercedem dare:
qui faxit, clam uxorem ducet semper scortum quod volet;
verum qui non manibus clare, quantum poterit, plauserit,
ei pro scorto supponetur hircus unctus nautea.

CISTELLARIA

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ACT I.

Selenivm
Cum ego ántehac te amávi et mi amícam esse crévi,
mea Gýmnasium, et mátrem tuám, tum id mihi hódie
apéruistis, tu átque haec: sorór si mea ésses,
qui mágis potuerítis mihi honórem ire habitum,
néscio, nisi, ut meus est animus, fieri non posse arbitror;
íta omnibus relictis rebus mihi frequentem operam dedistis.
éo ego vos amo ét eo á me magnam iniistis gratiam.

Gymnasivm
Pol isto quidem nos pretio facile est frequentare
tibi utilisque habere:
ita in prándio nos lepide ác nitide
accépisti apúd te, ut sempér meminerímus.

Sel.
Lubénti edepol ánimo factum ét fiet á me,
quae vós arbitrábor velle, éa ut expetéssam.

Lena
Quód ille dixit, quí secundo vénto vectus ést tranquilló mari,
véntum gaudeo — écastor ad téd, ita hodie híc acceptaé sumus
suávibus modis,
néc nisi disciplina apud te fuit quicquam ibi quin mihi placeret.

Sel.
Quid ita, amabo?

Lena.
Raro nimium dabat quod biberem, id merum infuscabat.

Gymn.
Amábo, hicine ístud decét?

Lena.

Iusque fásque est:
nemo álienus híc est.

Sel.
Meritó vostro amó vos,
quía me colitis et mágni facitis.

Lena.
Decet pol, mea Selenium,
hunc ésse ordiném benevoléntis intér se
béneque amicitia útier,
ubi istás videas summó genere natás, summatis mátronas,
ut amícitiam colunt átque ut eam iunctám bene habent intér se.
si idem istúd nos faciamús, si idém imitémur, itá tamen víx vivimús
cum invídia summa. suárum opum nos vólunt esse indigéntes.
nostrá copiá nil volúnt nos potésse
suíque omniúm rerum nós indigére,
út sibi simus súpplices.
éas si ádeas, abitum quam aditum malis, ita nostro ordini
palám blandiúntur, clam, si óccasio usquam est,
aquám frigidám subdolé suffúndunt.
virís cum suís praedicánt nos solére,
suás paelicés esse aiúnt, eunt depréssum.
quia nós libertinaé sumus, et ego ét tua mater, ámbae
meretrices fuimus: illa te, ego hanc mihi educavi
ex patribus conventiciis. neque ego hanc superbiai
causa pepuli ad meretricium quaestum, nisi ut ne ésurirem.

Sel.
At satius fuerat eam viro dare nuptum potius.

Lena.
Heia,
haec quidem ecastor cottidie viro núbit, nupsitque hodie,
nubet mox noctu: numquam ego hanc viduam cubare sivi.
nam si haec non nubat, lugubri fame familia pereat.

Gymn.
Necesse est, quo tu me modo voles esse, ita esse, mater.

Lena.
Ecastor haud me paenitet, si ut dicis ita futura es.
nam si quidem ita eris ut volo, numquam senecta fies
semperque istam quam nunc habes aetatulam optinebis,
multisque damno et mihi lucro siné meo saepe eris sumptu.

Gymn.
Di faxint.

Lena.
Sine opera tua di horunc nil facere possunt.

Gymn.
Equidem hercle addam operam sedulo; sed tu aufer istaec verba.
meus oculus, mea Selenium, numquam ego te tristiorem
vidi esse. quid, cedo, te obsecro tam abhorret hilaritudo?
neque munda adaeque es, ut soles (hoc sis vide, ut petivit
suspiritum alte) et pallida es. eloquere utrumque nobis,
et quid tibi est et quid velis nostram operam, ut nos sciamus.
noli, obsecro, lacrumis tuis mi exercitum imperare.

Sel.
Méd excrucio, mea Gymnasium: male mihi est, male maceror;
doleo ab animo, doleo ab oculis, doleo ab aegritudine.
quid dicam, nisi stultitia mea me in maerorem rapi?

Gymn.
Indidem unde oritur facito ut facias stultitiam sepelibilem.

Sel.
Quid faciam?

Gymn.
In latebras abscondas pectore penitissimo.
tuam stultitiam sola facito ut scías sine aliis arbitris.

Sel.
At mihi cordolium est.

Gymn.
Quid? id unde est tibi cor? commemora obsecro;
quod neque ego habeo neque quisquam alia mulier, ut perhibent viri.

Sel.
Siquid est quod doleát, dolet; si aútem non est — tamen hoc hic dolet.

Gymn.
Amat haec mulier.

Sel.
Eho an amare occipere amarum est, obsecro?

Gymn.
Namque ecastor Amor et melle et felle est fecundissimus;
gustui dat dulce, amarum ad satietatem usque oggerit.

Sel.
Ad istam faciem est morbus, qui me, mea Gymnasium, macerat.

Gymn.
Perfidiosus est Amor.

Sel.
Ergo in mé peculatum facit.

Gymn.
Bono animo es, erit isti morbo melius.

Sel.
Confidam fore,
si medicus veniat qui huic morbo facere medicinam potest.

Gymn.

Veniet.

Sel.
Spissum istuc amanti est verbum, veniet, nisi venit.
sed ego mea culpa et stultitia peius misera maceror,
quom ego illum unum mi exoptavi, quicum aetatem degerem.

Lena.
Matronae magis cónducibilest istuc, mea Selenium,
unum amare et cúm eo aetatem exigere quoi nuptast semel.
verum enim méretrix fortunati est oppidi simillima:
non potest suam rem obtinere sola sine multis viris.

Sel.
Hoc volo agatis. qua accersitae causa ad me estis, eloquar.
nam mea mater, quia ego nolo me meretricem dicier,
obsecutast de ea re, gessit morem morigerae mihi,
ut me, quém ego amarem graviter, sineret cúm eo vivere.

Lena.
Stulte ecastor fecit. sed tu enumquam cum quiquam viro
consuevisti?

Sel.
Nisi quidem cum Alcesimarcho, nemine,
neque pudícitiam meam mi álius quisquam imminuit.

Lena.
Obsecro,
quó is homo insinuavit pacto se ad te?

Sel.
Per Dionysia
mater pompam me spectatum duxit. dum redeo domum,
conspicillo consecutust clanculum me usque ad fores.
inde in amicitiam insinuavit cum matre et mecum simul
blanditiis, muneribus, donis.

Lena.
Mihi istunc vellem hominem dari,
ut ego illum vorsarem!

Sel.
Quid opust verbis? consuetudine
coepi amare contra ego illum, et ille me.

Lena.
O mea Selenium,
adsimulare amare oportet. nam si ames, extempulo
melius illi multo, quém ames, consulas quam rei tuae.

Sel.
At ille conceptis iuravit verbis apud matrem meam,
me uxorem ducturum esse: ei nunc alia ducendast domum,
sua cognata Lemniensis, quae habitat hic in proxumo.
nam eúm pater eius subégit. nunc mea mater iratast mihi,
quia non redierim domum ad se, postquam hanc rem resciverim,
eum uxorem ducturum esse aliam.

Lena.
Nihil amori iniuriumst.

Sel.
Nunc te amabo ut hanc hic unum triduom hoc solum sinas
esse et hic servare apud me. nam ad matrem accersita sum.

Lena.
Quamquam istud mihi erit molestum triduom, et damnum dabis,
faciam.

Sel.
Facis benigne et amice. sed tu, Gymnasium mea,
si me absente Alcesimarchus veniet, nolito acriter
eum inclámare (utut erga me est meritus, mihi cordi est tamen),
sed, amabo, tranquille: ne quid, quod illi doleat, dixeris.
accipias clavis: si quid opus tibi erit prompto, promito.

ego volo ire.

Gymn.
Vt mi excivisti lacrimas.

Sel.
Gymnasium mea,
bene vale.

Gymn.
Cura te, amabo. sicine immunda, obsecro,
ibis?

Sel.
Immundas fortunas aequom est squalorem sequi.

Gymn.
Amiculum hoc sustolle saltem.

Sel.
Sine trahi, cum egomet trahor.

Gymn.
Quando ita tibi lubet, vale atque salve.

Sel.
Si possim, velim. —

Gymn.
Numquid me vis, mater, intro quin eam? ecastor mihi
visa amare.

Lena.
Istoc ergo auris graviter obtundo tuas,
ne quem ames. abi intro.

Gymn.
Numquid me vis?

Lena.
Vt valeas.

Gymn.
Vale. —

Lena.
Idem míhi magnae quod parti est vitium mulierum
quae hunc quaestum facimus: quae ubi saburratae sumus,
largiloquae extemplo sumus, plus loquimur quam sat est.
nam ego illanc olim, quae hinc flens abiit, parvolam
puellám proiectam ex angiportu sustuli.
adulescens quidam hic est adprime nobilis
quin ego nunc quia sum onusta mea ex sententia
quiaque adeo me complevi flore Liberi,
magis líbera uti lingua conlibitum est mihi,
tacere nequeo misera quod tacito usus est.
Sicyone, summo genere; ei vivit pater.
is amore misere hanc deperit mulierculam,
quae hinc modo flens abiit. contra amore eum haec deperit.
eam meae ego amicae dono huic meretrici dedi,
quae saepe mecum mentionem fecerat,
puerum aut puellam alicunde ut reperirem sibi,
recens natum, eapse quod sibi supponeret.
ubi mihi potestas primum evenit, ilico
feci eius ei quod me oravit copiam.
postquam eam puellam á me accepit, ilico
eandem puellam peperit quam a me acceperat,
sine obstetricis opera et sine doloribus,
item ut aliae pariunt, quae malum quaerunt sibi.
nam amatorem aibat esse peregrinum sibi
suppositionemque eius facere gratia.
id duae nos solae scimus: ego quae illi dedi
et illa quae a me accepit, praeter vos quidem.
haec sic res gesta est. si quid usus venerit,
meminisse ego hanc rem vos volo. ego abeo domum. —

Avxilivm

Vtrumque haec, et multiloqua et multibiba, est anus.
satin víx reliquit deo quod loqueretur loci,
itá properavit de puellae proloqui
suppositione. quod si tacuisset, tamen
ego eram dicturus, deus, qui poteram planius.
nam mihi Auxilio est nomen. nunc operam date,
ut ego argumentum hoc vobis plane perputem.
fuere Sicyoni iam diu Dionysia.
mercator venit huc ad ludos Lemnius,
isque hic compressit virginem, adulescentulus,
vi, vinulentus multa nocte in via.
is ubi malam rem scit se meruisse, ilico
pedibus perfugium peperit, in Lemnum aufugit,
ubi habitabat tum. ílla quam compresserat
decumo post mense exacto hic peperit filiam.
quoniam reum eius facti nescit qui siet,
paternum servom sui participat consili,
dat eam puellam ei servo exponendam ad necem.
is eam proiecit. haec puellam sustulit.
ille clam óbservavit servos qui eam proiecerat
quo aut quas in aedis haec puellam deferat.
ut eampse vos audistis confiterier,
dat eam puellam meretrici Melaenidi,
eaque educavit eam sibi pro filia
bene ac pudice. tum illic autem Lemnius
propinquam uxorem duxit, cognatam suam.
ea diem suom obiit, facta morigera est viro.
postquam ille uxori iusta fecit, ilico
huc commigravit; duxit uxorem hic sibi
eandem quam olim virginem hic compresserat,
et eam cognoscit esse, quam compresserat;
illa illi dicit, eius se ex iniuria
peperisse gnatam átque eam se servo ilico
dedisse exponendam. ille extemplo servolum
iubet illum eundem persequi, si qua queat
reperire quae sustulerit. ei rei nunc suam

operam usque assiduo servos dat, si possiet
meretricem illam invenire, quam olim tollere,
cum ipse exponebat, ex insidiis viderat.
nunc quod relicuom restat volo persolvere,
ut expungatur nomen, ne quid debeam.
adulescens hic est Sicyoni, ei vivit pater;
is amore proiecticiam illam deperit
quae dudum flens hinc abiit ad matrem suam,
et illa hunc contra, qui est amor suavissimus.
ut sunt humana, nihil est perpetuom datum.
pater adulescenti dare volt uxorem; hoc ubi
mater rescivit, iussit accersi eam domum.
haec sic res gesta est. bene valete et vincite
virtute vera, quod fecistis antidhac;
servate vostros socios, veteres et novos,
augete auxilia vostra iustis legibus,
perdite perduelles, parite laudem et lauream,
ut vobis victi Poeni poenas sufferant. —

ACT II.

Alcesimarchvs
Credo égo Amorem primum ápud homines carníficinam
comméntum.
hanc égo de me coniécturam domi fácio, ni foris quaéram,
qui omnés homines supero atque ántideo cruciábilitatibus ánimi.
iactór crucior agitor stimulór, versor
in amóris rota, miser éxanimor,
feror dífferor distrahor díripior,
ita núbilam mentem animi hábeo.
ubi sum, íbi non sum, úbi non sum, íbist animus,
ita mi ómnia sunt ingénia;
quod lúbet, non lubet iam id cóntinuo,
ita me Amor lassum animi lúdificat,
fugat, ágit, appetit, raptát, retinet,
lactát, largitur: quód dat non dat; déludit:
modo quód suasit, id díssuadet,
quod díssuasit, id osténtat.
maritúmis moribus mecum experitur
ita méum frangit amantem ánimum;
neque, nísi quia miser non eó pessum,
mihi úlla abest perdito pérmities.
ita páter apud villam détinuit
me hos diés sex ruri cóntinuos,
neque lícitum interea est méam amicam visére ...
estne hóc miserum memorátu?

...

“

25nudiussextus

“

&**3**Gloss.Plaut.&

“

(Alc.)

Pótine tu homo facinus facere strenuom?
(Servvs)
Aliorum affatim est
qui faciant. sane ego me nolo fortem perhiberi virum.
...
“
Gel.&**3**N.A.&**6**.**7**.

3

Alc.

Quia vivo.

Serv.
Facile id quidem edepol possum, si tu vis.

Alc.

Volo.

Serv.
30 At enim ne tu exponas pugno os metuo in imperio meo.

Alc.

Numquam edepol faciam.

Serv.
Fidem da.

Alc.

Do, non facturum esse me.
sed ego primum, tot qui ab amica abesse potuerim dies,
sum nihili.

Serv.
Nihili hercle vero es.

Alc.

... perdite,
quae me amaret contra.

Serv.
Dignus hercle es infortunio.

Alc.

Ei me tot tam acerba facere in corde.

Serv.
Frugi nunquam eris.

Alc.

Praesertim quae coniurasset mecum et firmasset fidem,

Serv.
Neque deos neque homines aequom est facere tibi posthac bene.

Alc.

Quae esset aetatem exactura mecum in matrimonio,

Serv.
Compedes te capere oportet neque eas unquam ponere.

Alc.

Quae mihi esset commendata et meae fidei concredita,

Serv.
Hercle te verberibus multum caedi oportere arbitror.

Alc.

Quae mellillam me vocare et suavium solitast suom.

Serv.
Ob istuc unum verbum dignu's, deciens qui furcam feras.

Alc.

Egomet laetor. sed quid auctor nunc mihi es?

Serv.
Dicam tibi:
Supplicium illi des, suspendas te, ne tibi suscenseat.

Alc.

Quian ...

Serv.
Quid tu ergo ... te manuleo

...

{(&**7**Alc&.)} Quid si amo? ...
(T.)
... est amor
... atque illam quam te amare intellego
... si conclusos vos me habere in carcere
... amoris noctesque et dies
ni emórtuos ...
mihi nunquam quisquam ...
(T.)
Immo maxumus.
nam quí amant stulte atque inmodeste atque inprobe
... ne ament.

...

{(&**7**Alc&.)} ... ubi tu es?

Serv.

Ecce me.

Alc.

I, adfer mihi arma ét loricam adducito.

Serv.
Loricam adducam?

Alc.

I, curre, equom adfer.

Serv.
Hercle hic insanit miser.

Alc.

Abi atque hastatos multos, multos velites,
multos cum multis — nil moror precario.
ubi sunt quae iussi?

Serv.
Sanus hic non est satis.

T.
Ab anu esse credo nocitum, cum illaec sic facit.

Serv.
Vtrum deliras, quaeso, an astans somnias,
qui equom me adferre iúbes, loricam adducere,
multos hastatos, post id multos velites,
multos cum multis? haec tu pervorsario
mihi fabulatu's.

Alc.

Dixin égo istaec, obsecro?

Serv.
Modó quidem hercle haec dixisti.

Alc.

Non praesens quidem.

Serv.
Praestigiator, siquidem hic non es atque ades.

T.
Video ego te Amoris valde tactum toxico,
adulescens; eo te magis volo monitum.

Alc.

Mone.

T.
Cave sís cum Amore tu unquam bellum sumpseris.

Alc.

Quid faciam?

T.
Ad matrem eius devenias domum,
expurges, iures, ores blande per precem
eamque exores ne tibi suscenseat.

Alc.

Expurigabo hercle omnia ad raucam ravim.

...

“
Senex
prohibét divitiis máximis, dóte áltili atque opíma.

“

Non.p.**72**M

...

quamquam vetus cantherius sum, etiam nunc, ut ego opinor,
adhinnire equolam possum ego hanc, si detur sola soli.

Gymnasivm
Nimis opportune mi evenit rediisse Alcesimarchum;
nam sola nulla invitior solet esse.

Sen.
Me vocato,
ne sola sis: ego tecum ero, volo ego agere, ut tú agas aliquid.

Gymn.
Nimis lépide exconcinnavit hasce aedis Alcesimarchus.

Sen.
Vt quom Venus adgreditur, placet; lepidumst amare semper.

Gymn.
Venerem meram haec aedes olent, quia amator expolivit.

Sen.
Non modo ipsa lepidast, commode quoque hercle fabulatur.
sed cum dicta huius intérpretor, haec herclest, ut ego opinor,
meum quaé corrumpit filium. suspiciost eam esse,
utpote quam nunquam viderim; de opinione credo.
nam hasce aedis conductas habet meus gnatus, haec ubi astat:
hoc hanc eam esse opiniost; nam haec illum nominavit.
quid si adeam atque appellem. mali damnique inlecebra, salve.

Gymn.
... vapulabis.

Sen.

... volo apud te.

...

Gymn.
Intro abeo,
nam méretricem astare in via solam prostibuli sanest.

...

Gymn.
quid vis.

Sen.
Volo éx te scire quidquid est ...
quid ego usquam male feci tibi aut meus quisquam, id edisserta,
quam ob rem me meumque filium quom matre remque nostram
habes pérditui et praedatui?

Gymn.
Miser errat, ut ego dixi.
lepidast materies, ludam ego hunc, nam occasio videtur.
potin operam inique equidem malam ut ne des innocenti?

Sen.
Sed obsecro te, nullusnest tibi amator alius quisquam,
nisi meus modo unus filius?

Gymn.
Quem quidem ego amem, alius nemo est.

Sen.
At ego ...

Gymn.
Nil moror: damno sunt tui mihi similes.

Sen.

115 Quid ...
(Gymn.)
isne est id arbitratus?

...

“
(Gym.)
datores
negotioli bellissimi senices soletis esse.
...
“
Prisc.&**3**GL&**2**.**111**K
“
Lena.
120 Me respondere postulas? iniurium est.
stipulari semper me ultro oportet a viris,
eum quaestum facio, nil viris promittere.
...
“
Prisc.&**3**GL&**2**.**388**K
“
siquidem ímperes pro copia, pro recula
125 ...
“
Prisc.&**3**GL&**2**.**107**K
“
Lena.
Quin is, si itura es? nimium is vegrandi gradu.
“
Festus**372**M
“
Gymn.
Pol ad cubituram, mater, magis sum exercita
fere quam ad cursuram. eo sum tardiuscula.
“
Non.**198**M

“
meminere officium suom.
“
Non.**499**M
“
130ita mustulentus ventus nares attigit.
“
Non.**63**Met**415**M
“
capillo scisso atque excissatis auribus
“
Non.**108**M
“
quae quasi carnificis angiporta purigans
non quasi nunc haec sunt hic, limaces, lividae,
febriculosae, miserae amicae, ósseae,
135diobolares, schoeniculae, miraculae,
cum extritis talis, cum todillis crusculis
“
Non.**190**M

...

Sel.
Molestus es.

Alc.

Meae issula sua aedes egent. ad me sine ducam.

Sel.
Aufer manum.

Alc.

140 Germana mea sororcula.

Sel.

Repudio te fraterculum.

Alc.

Tum tu igitur, mea matercula.

Mel.
Repudio te † fraterculum.

Alc.

Opsecro te

Sel.
Valeas.

Alc.

Vt sinas

Sel.
Nil moror.

Alc.

Expurigare me.

Sel.

...

Alc.

Sine dicám.

Mel.
Satis sapit mihi tuis periuriis.
... at nunc non potest.

Alc.

Supplicium polliceri volo.

Sel.
At mi aps te accipere non libet.

Alc.

Em omnia
patior iure infelix.

Sel.
Volup est neque tis misereri decet.
quamquam hominem ...
verba dare ...
non illa ... qui frangant foedera
... eos ...
{(&7Sel&.)} dabis. —

Alc.

At egó nec do néque te amíttam hodie, nisi quaé volo tecúm loqui das mihi operam.

Mel.
Pótin ut mihi molestus ne sis?

Alc.

Quin id est nomen mihi,
omnes mortales vocant molestum. ...
... obsecro.

Mel.
At frustra obsecras.

...

quia sine omni ...

Alc.

Dabo
ius iurandum. ...

Mel.
At ego nunc ab illo mihi caveo iure iurando tuo;
similest ius iurandum amantum quasi ius confusicium.

Alc.

Nescia ...
... {(&**7**Mel&.)} nugas agis.

...

Alc.

Supplicium dabo ...
quo modo ego ...
... {(&**7**Mel&.)} quia es nactus novam,
quae ... quaedam quasi tu nescias.

...

Alc.

Di deaeque illam perdant † pariter.
... umquam, si hoc fallo.

Mel.
Nil moror
... falsum fallis, eo te ... ignorat fides.
postremo, si mihi dedisses verba, deis numquam dares.

Alc.

Quin equidem illam ducam uxorem.

Mel.
Ducas, si ...
nunc hoc si tibi commodumst, quae ...

Alc.

Instruxi illi aurum atque vestem. {(&**7**Mel&.)} ...
siquidem amabas, ... illi instrui.
sed sino. iam hoc mihi responde quod ego te rogavero:
instruxisti ...
tibi ita ut voluisti ... {(&**7**Alc&.)} quod volo.

Mel.
Eo facetu's quia tibi aliast sponsa locuples Lemnia.
habeas. neque nos factione tanta quanta tu sumus
neque opes nostrae tam sunt validae quam tuae; verum tamen
hau metuo ne ius iurandum nostrum quisquam culpitet:
tu iam, si quid tibi dolebit, scies qua doleat gratia.

Alc.

Di me perdant —

Mel.
Quodcumque optes, tibi velim contingere.

Alc.

Si illam uxorem duxero umquam, mihi quam despondit pater.

Mel.
Et me, si umquam tibi uxorem filiam dedero meam.

Alc.

Patierin me periurare?

Mel.
Pol te aliquanto facilius,
quam me meamque rem perire et ludificari filiam.
alibi quaere ubi iuri iurando tuo satis sit subsidi:
hic apud nós iam, Alcesimarche, confregisti tesseram.

Alc.

Face semel periclum.

Mel.
Feci saepe, quod factum queror.

Alc.

Redde mi illam.

Mel.
Inter novam rem verbum usurpabo vetus:
quod dedi datum non vellem, quod relicuomst non dabo.

Alc.

Non remissura es mihi illam?

Mel.
Pro me responsas tibi.

Alc.

Non remittes?

Mel.
Scis iam dudum omnem meam sententiam.

Alc.

Satin istuc tibi in corde certumst?

Mel.
Quin ego commentor quidem.

Alc.

Non edepol ego istaec tua dicta nunc in auris recipio.

Mel.
Non? hem, quid agis igitur? animum advorte iam, ut quid agas scias.

Alc.

At ita me di deaeque, superi atque inferi et medioxumi,
itaque me Iuno regina et Iovis supremi filia
itaque me Saturnus eius patruos —

Mel.
Ecastor pater.

Alc.

Itaque me Ops opulenta illius avia —

Mel.
Immo mater quidem.

Alc.

Iuno filia et Saturnus patruos et summus Iuppiter —
tu me delenis, propter te haec pecco.

Mel.
Perge dicere.

Alc.

Anne etiam, ut quid consultura sis sciam, pérgis eloqui?

Mel.

Non remittam. definitumst.

Alc.

Enim vero ita me Iuppiter
itaque me Iuno itaque Ianus ita — quid dicam nescio.
iam scio. immo, mulier, audi, meam ut scias sententiam.
di me omnes, magni minuti, ét etiam patellarii
faxint, ne ego dem vivae vivos savium Selenio,
nisi ego teque tuamque † filiam meque hodie obtruncavero,
poste autem cum primo luci cras nisi ambo occidero,
et equidem hercle nisi pedatu tertio † omnis efflixero,
nisi tu illam remittis ad me. dixi quae volui. vale. —

Mel.
Abiit intro iratus. quid ego nunc agam? si redierit
illa ad hunc, ibidem loci res erit: ubi odium occeperit,
illam extrudet, tum hanc uxorem Lemniam ducet domum.
sed tamen ibo et persequar: amens ne quid faciat, cauto opust.
postremo, quando aequa lege pauperi cum divite
non licet, perdam operam potius quam carebo filia.
sed quis hic est qui recta platea cursum huc contendit suom?
et illud paveo et hoc formido, ita tota sum misera in metu.

Lampadio
Anum sectatus sum clamore per vias,
miserrumam habui. ut illaec hodie quot modis
moderatrix linguae fuit atque immemorabilis.
quot illí blanditias, quid illi promisi boni,
quot admoenivi fabricas, quot fallacias
in quaestione. vix exculpsi ut diceret,
quia ei promisi dolium vini dare.

Phanostrata
Audire vocem visa sum ante aedis modo
mei Lampadisci servi.

Lamp.

Non surda es, era:
recte audivisti.

Phan.
Quid agis hic?

Lamp.
Quod gaudeas.

Phan.
Quid id est?

Lamp.
Hinc ex hisce aedibus paulo prius
vidi exeuntem mulierem.

Phan.
Illam quae meam
gnatam sustulerat?

Lamp.
Rem tenes.

Phan.
Quid postea?

Lamp.
Dico éi, quo pacto eam ab hippodromo viderim
erilem nostram filiam sustollere.
extimuit tum illa.

Mel.
Iam horret corpus, cor salit.
nam mihi ab hippodromo memini adferri parvolam
puellam eamque me mihi supponere.

Phan.
Age perge, quaeso. ánimus audire expetit

ut gesta res sit.

Mel.
Vtinam audire non queas.

...

Lamp.
Pergo illam onerare dictis: “illaec ted anus
fortunis ex secundis ad miseras vocat.
nam illaec tibi nutrix est, ne matrem censeas.
ego te reduco et revoco ad summas ditias,
ubi tu locere in luculentam familiam,
unde tíbi talenta magna viginti pater
det dotis; non enim hic, ubi ex Tusco modo
tute tibi indigne dotem quaeras corpore.”

Phan.
An, amabo, meretrix illa est quae illam sustulit?

Lamp.
Immo meretrix fuit; sed ut sit dé ea re, eloquar.
iam perducebam illam ad me suadela mea:
anus éi amplexa est genua, plorans, obsecrans,
ne deserat se: eam suam esse filiam,
seque eam peperisse sancte adiurabat mihi.
‘istanc quam quaeris’ inquit “ego amicae meae
dedi, quae éducaret eam pro filiola sua;
et vivit” inquit. ‘ubi ea est?’ inquam extempulo.

Phan.
Servate di med obsecro.

Mel.
At me perditis.

Phan.
Quoi illam dedisset exquisisse oportuit.

Lamp.
Quaesivi, et dixit meretrici Melaenidi.

Mel.
Meum elocutust nomen, interii oppido.

Lamp.
Vbi elocuta est, ego continuo anum interrogo;
‘ubi habitat?’ inquam ‘duc ac demonstra mihi.’
‘avecta est’ inquit ‘peregre hinc habitatum.’

Mel.

Obsipat
aculam.

Lamp.
Quo avecta est, eo sequemur. sicine
agis núgas? periisti hercle, ni ...
... non hoc longe destiti
instare, usque adeo donec se adiurat anus
iam mihi monstrare.

Phan.
Át non missam oportuit.

Lamp.
Servatur. sed illaec se quandam aibat mulierem
suam bene volentem convenire etiam prius,
commune quacum id esset sibi negotium.
et scio venturam.

Mel.
Me indicabit, et suas
ad meas miserias † alias faciem consciam.

Phan.
Quid nunc vis facere me?

Lamp.
Intro abi atque animo bono es.
vir tuos si veniet, iube domi opperirier,
ne in quaestione mihi sit, si quid eum velim.
ego ad ánum recurro rursum.

Phan.
Lampadio, obsecro,
cura.

Lamp.
Perfectum ego hoc dabo negotium.

Phan.
Deos téque spero. —

Lamp.
Eosdem ego, uti abeas domum.

Mel.
Adulescens, asta atque audi.

Lamp.
Men, mulier, vocas?

Mel.
Te.

Lamp.
Quid negoti est? nam occupatus sum ampliter.

Mel.
Quis istic habitat?

Lamp.
Demipho dominus meus.

Mel.

Nempe istic est, qui Alcesimarcho filiam
suam despondit in divitias maxumas?

Lamp.
Is ipsust.

Mel.
Eho tu, quam vos igitur filiam
nunc quaeritatis alteram?

Lamp.
Ego dicam tibi:
non ex uxore natam uxoris filiam.

Mel.
Quid istuc est verbi?

Lamp.
Ex priore muliere
nata, inquam, meo ero est filia.

Mel.
Certe modo
huius, quaé locuta est, quaerere aibas filiam.

Lamp.
Huius ergo quaero.

Mel.
Quo modo igitur, obsecro,
haec est prior, quae nupta nunc est?

Lamp.

Conteris
tu tua me oratione, mulier, quisquis es.
medioxumam quam duxit uxorem, ex ea
nata est haec virgo, Alcesimarcho quae datur.

ea uxór diem obiit. iam scis?

Mel.
Teneo istuc satis.
sed ego illud quaero confragosum, quo modo
prior pósterior sit et posterior sit prior?

Lamp.
Prius hanc compressit quam uxorem duxit domum,
prius grávida facta est priusque peperit filiam;
eam póstquam peperit, iussit parvam proici:
ego eam proieci, ália mulier sustulit,
ego inspectavi. érus hanc duxit postibi.
eam núnc puellam filiam eius quaerimus.
quid nunc supina susum in caelum conspicis?

Mel.
Ei nunciam istuc quo properabas, nil moror.
nunc intellexi.

Lamp.
Dis hercle habeo gratiam,
nam ni intellexes, numquam, credo, amitteres. —

Mel.
Nunc mihi bonae necessumst esse ingratiis,
quamquam esse nolo. rem palam esse intellego:
nunc egomet potius hanc inibo gratiam
ab illis, quam illaec me indicet. ibo domum,
atque ad parentes redducam Selenium. —

ACT III.

Melaenis
Rem élocuta sum tibi omnem; sequere hac me, Selenium,
ut eorum quoiam esse oportet te sis potius quam mea.
quamquam invita te carebo, ánimum ego inducam tamen
ut illud quem ad modum tuam in rem bene conducat consulam.
nam hic crepundia insunt, quibuscum te illa olim ad me detulit,
quae mihí dedit, parentes te ut cognoscant facilius.
accipe hanc cistellam, Halisca. ágedum pulta illas fores.
dic me orare ut aliquis intus prodeat propere ocius.

Alcesimarchvs
Recipe me ad te, Mors, amicum et benevolum.

Selenivm
Mater mea,
periimus miseraé.

Alc.

Vtrum hac me feriam an ab laeva latus?

Mel.
Quid tibi est?

Sel.
Alcesimarchum non vides? ferrum tenet.

Alc.

Ecquid agis? remorare. lumen linque.

Sel.
Amabo, accurrite,
ne se interemat.

Alc.

O Salute méa salus salubrior,
tu nunc, si ego volo seu nolo, sola me ut vivam facis.

Mel.
Haud voluisti istuc severum facere.

Alc.

Nil mecum tibi,
mortuos tibi sum: hanc ut habeo certum est non amittere;
nam hercle iam ad me adglutinandam totam decretum est dare.
ubi estis, servi? occludite aedis pessulis, repagulis
ilico: hanc ego tetulero intra limen. —

Mel.
Abiit, abstulit
mulierem. ibo, persequar iam illum intro, ut haec ex me sciat
éadem, si possum tranquillum facere ex irato mihi.

ACT IV.

Lampadio
Nullam ego me vidisse credo magis anum excruciabilem
quam illaec est, quae dudum fassa est mihi quaene infitias eat.
sed eccam eram video. sed quíd hoc est, haec quod cistella hic iacet
cum crepundiis? nec quemquam conspicor alium in via.
faciundum est puerile officium: conquiniscam ad cistulam.

Phanostrata
Quid agis, Lampadio?

Lamp.
Haec cistella numnam hinc ab nobis domo est?
nam hinc ab ostio iacentem sustuli.

Phan.
Quid nuntias
super anu?

Lamp.
Scelestiorem in terra nullam esse alteram.
omnia infitiatur ea quae dudum confessa est mihi.
nam hercle ego quam illam anum inridere me ut sinam, satiust mihi
quovis exitio interire.

Phan.
Di, obsecro vostram fidem.

La.

Quid deos obsecras?

Ph.
Servate nos.

La.

Quid est?

Ph.

Crepundia
haec sunt, quibuscum tu extulisti nostram filiolam ad necem.

L.
Sanane es?

P.
Haec sunt profecto.

L.
Pergin?

P.
Haec sunt.

L.
Si mihi
alia mulier istoc pacto dicat, dicam esse ebriam.

Phan.
Non ecastor falsa memoro.

Lamp.
Nam, obsecro, unde haec gentium?
aut quis deus obiecit hanc ante ostium nostrum, quasi
dedita opera, in tempore ipso?

Phan.
Spes mihi sancta subveni.

Halisca
Nisi quíd mi opis di dant, dísperii, neque unde aúxilium expetam hábeo.

itaque † petulantia mea me animi miseram habet.
quae in térgum meúm ne veniánt, male formído,
si era méa me sciát tam socórdem esse quám sum.
quamne ín manibus ténui atque accépi hic ante aédis
cistéllam, ubi ea sít nesció, nisi ut opínor
loca haec circiter excidit mihi.
mei hómines, mei spectátores, facite índicium, si quís vidit,
quis eam ábstulerit quisve sústulerit et utrum hác an illac iter
ínstiterit.
non súm scitiór, quae hos rogem aút quae fatígem,
qui sémper maló muliebrí sunt lubéntes.
nunc véstigia híc si qua súnt noscitábo.
nam sí nemo hac praéter iít, postquam intro ábii,
cistélla hic iacéret. quid híc? perii, opínor.
actum ést, ilicét me infelícem et sceléstam.
nulla ést, neque ego sum úsquam. perdíta perdidít me.
sed pérgam ut coépi tamén, quaeritábo.
nam et intús paveo et foris fórmido,
ita núnc utrubique metús me agitat.
ita súnt homines miseré miseri:
ílle nunc laétus est, quísquis est, qui íllam habet,
quaé neque illa ílli quicquam úsui et mi exítio est.
sed mémet morór, quom hoc agó setius.
Halísca, hoc age, ad térram aspice ét despice,
oculís investíges, astúte augura.

Lam.
Era.

Ph.
Hém quid est?

Lam.
Haec ést.

Ph.
Quis est?

Lam.
Quoi haec éxcidit cistélla.

Phan.
Certe est, eum locum signat, ubí ea excidit: apparet.

Hal.
Sed is hác iit, hac soccí video
vestígium in pulvere, pérsequar hac.
in hoc iám loco cum altero cónstitit. hic
meis túrba oculis modo se óbiecit:
neque prórsum iit hac: hic stétit, hinc illo
exiít. hic conciliúm fuit.
ad duós attinet, liquidúmst. attat,
singulúm video vestígium.
sed is hác abiit. contémplabor. hinc húc iit, hinc nusquam ábiit.
actám rem ago. quod periít, periit: meum córium cum cistélla.
redeo íntro.

Phan.
Muliér, mane. sunt quí volunt té conventam.

Hal.
Quis mé revocat?

Lamp.
Bona femina et malus masculus volunt te.

Hal.
... postremo ille
plus qui vocat scit quod velit, quam ego quae vocor. revortor.
ecquem vidisti † quaerere hic, amabo, in hac regione
cistellam cum crepundiis, quam ego hic amisi misera?
nam dudum ut accucurrimus ad Alcésimarchum, ne se
vita interemeret, tum éam mihi opinor excidisse.

Lamp.
Cistellam haec mulier perdidit. taceamus, era, parumper.

Hal.
Disperii misera. quid ego erae dicam? quae me opere tanto
servare iussit, qui suos Selenium parentes
facilius posset noscere, quae erae meae supposita est parva,
quam quaedam meretríx ei dedit.

Lamp.
Nostram haec rem fabulatur,
hanc scire oportet, filia tua ubí sit, signa ut dicit.

Hal.
Nunc eam volt suae matri et patri, quibus nata est, reddere ultro.
mi homo, obsecro, alias res geris, ego tibi meas res mando.

Lamp.
Istuc ago, atque istic mihi cibus est, quod fabulare,
sed inter rém agendam istam erae huic respondi quod rogabat.
nunc ad te redeo: si quid est opus, dic, impetratumst.
quid quaeritabas?

Hal.
Mí homo et mea mulier, vos saluto.

Phan.
Et nos te. sed quid quaeritas?

Hal.
Vestigium hic requiro,
qua aufugit quaedam ... aestio ...

Lamp.
Quid id? quid nam est?

Hal.
Alienum ... et maerorem familiarem.

Lamp.
Mala mers, era, haec et callida est.

Phan.
Ecastor ita videtur.

Lamp.
Imitatur nequam bestiam et damnificam.

Phan.
Quamnam, amabo?

Lamp.
Involvolum, quae in pampini folio intorta implicat se:
itidem haec exorditur sibi intortam orationem.
quid quaeritas?

Hal.
Cistellula hinc mi, adulescens, evolavit.

Lamp.
In caveam latam oportuit.

Hal.
Non edepol praeda magna.

Lamp.
Mirum quin grex venalium in cistella infuerit una.

Phan.
Sine dicat.

Lamp.
Si dicat quidem.

Phan.
Age lóquere tu quid ibi infuerit.

Hal.
Crepundia una.

Lamp.

Est quidam homo, qui illam ait se scire ubi sit.
at pol ille a quadam muliere, si eam monstret, gratiam ineat.

Lamp.
At sibi ille quidam volt dari mercedem.

Hal.
At pol illa quaedam,
quae illam cistellam perdidit, quoidam negat esse quod det.

Lamp.
At enim ille quidam operam bonam magis expetit quam argentum.

Hal.
At pol illi quoidam mulieri nulla opera gratuita est.

Phan.
Commodule quaedam. tu tibi nunc prodes. confitemur
cistellam habere.

Hal.
At vos Salus servassit. ubi ea nunc est?

Phan.
Salvam eccam. sed ego rem meam magnam confabulari
tecum volo: sóciam te mihi adopto ad meam salutem.

Hal.
Quid istúc negoti est? aut quis es?

Phan.
Egó sum illius mater,
quae haec gestitavit.

Hal.
Hicine tu ergo habitas?

Phan.

Hariolare.
sed quaéso, ambages, mulier, mitte atque hoc age.
eloquere, unde haec sunt tibi, cito, crepundia.

Hal.
Mea haec erilis gestitavit filia.

Lamp.
Mentiris, nam mea gestitavit, non tua.

Phan.
Ne obloquere.

Lamp.
Taceo.

Phan.
Mulier, perge dicere.
ubi ea est, quae gestitavit?

Hal.
Hic in proximo.

Phan.
Istic quidem edepol mei virí habitat gener.

...

Phan.
Ne obloquere rusus. perge porro dicere.
quot annos nata dicitur?

Hal.
Septemdecim.

Phan.
Mea est.

Lamp.

East: u ... numerus annorum attulit.

Hal.
Quid qua tibi causa haec dixi? iam quaero meam.

Lamp.
At pol ego ... sunt, quaero tertiam.

Phan.
Quod quaeritabam, filiam inveni meam.

Hal.
Aequom est reponi per fidem quod creditum est,
ne bene merenti sit malo benignitas.
nostra haec alumna est, tua profecto filia:

...

et redditura est tuam tibi, et ea gratia
domo profecta est. ceterum ex ipsa, obsecro,
exquaeritote: ego serva sum.

Phan.
Aequom postulas.

Hal.
Illius égo istanc esse malo gratiam.
sed istánc cistellam te opsecro ut reddas mihi.

Phan.
Quid fit, Lampadio?

Lamp.
Quod tuom est teneas tuom.

Phan.
At me huius miseret.

Lamp.

Sic faciundum censeo:
da isti cistellam et intro abi cum istac semul.

Phan.
Tibi auscultabo. tene tu cistellam tibi,
abeamus intro. sed quid est nomen tuae
dominae?

Hal.
Melaenis.

Phan.
I prae, iám ego te sequar. —

ACT V.

Demipho
Quíd hoc negoti est, quód omnes homines fabulantur per vias
mihi esse filiam inventam? et Lampadionem me in foro
quaesivisse aiunt.

Lamp.
Ere, unde is?

Dem.
Ex senatu.

Lamp.

Gaudeo
tibi mea opera liberorum esse amplius.

Dem.
Enim non placet.
nil moror aliena mi opera fieri pluris liberos.
sed quid istúc est?

Lamp.
Propera ire intro húc ad adfinem tuom,
filiam tuam iám cognosces intus. íbidem uxor tua est.
abi cito.

Dem.
Praevorti hoc certumst rebus aliis omnibus. —

Caterva
Ne exspectetis, spectatores, dum illi huc ad vos exeant:
nemo exibit, omnes intus conficient negotium.
ubi id erit factum, ornamenta ponent; postidea loci
qui deliquit vapulabit, qui non deliquit bibet.
nunc quod ad vos, spectatores, relicuom relinquitur,

more maiorum date plausum postrema in comoedia.

CURCULIO

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ACT I.

Palinvrvs
Quo ted hoc noctis dicam proficisci foras
Cum istoc ornatu cumque hac pompa, Phaedrome?

Phaedromvs
Quo Venus Cupidoque imperat, suadet Amor:
si media nox est sive est prima vespera,
si status condictus cum hoste intercedit dies,
tamen est eundum quo imperant ingratiis.

Pal.
At tandem, tandem —

Phaed.
Tandem es odiosus mihi.

Pal.
Istuc quidem nec bellum est nec memorabile:
tute tibi puer es, lautus luces cereum.

Phaed.
Egon apicularum congestum opera non feram,
ex dulci oriundum melculo dulci meo?

Pal.
Nam quo te dicam ego ire?

Phaed.
Si tu me roges,
dicam ut scias.

Pal.
Si rogitem, quid respondeas?

Phaed.

Hoc Aesculapi fanum est.

Pal.
Plus iam anno scio.

Phaed.
Huic proxumum illud ostiumst oculissimum.
salve, valuistin?

Pal.
Ostium occlusissimum,
caruitne febris te herí vel nudiustertius
et heri cenavistine?

Phaed.
Deridesne me?

Pal.
Quid tu ergo, insane, rogitas valeatne ostium?

Phaed.
Bellissimum hercle vidi et taciturnissimum,
numquam ullum verbum muttit: cum aperitur tacet,
cum ílla noctu clanculum ad me exit, tacet.

Pal.
Numquid tu quod te aut genere indignum sit tuo
facis aut inceptas facinus facere, Phaedrome?
num tu pudicae cuipiam insidias locas
aut quam pudicam ésse oportet?

Phaed.
Nemini,
nec me ille sirit Iuppiter.

Pal.
Ego item volo.
ita tuom conferto amare semper, si sapis,

ne id quod ames populus si sciat, tibi sit probro.
semper curato ne sis intestabilis.

Phaed.
Quid istúc est verbi?

Pal.
Caute ut incedas via:
quod amas amato testibus praesentibus.

Phaed.
Quin leno hic habitat.

Pal.
Nemo hinc prohibet nec vetat,
quin quod palam est venale, si argentum est, emas.
nemo ire quemquam publica prohibet via;
dum ne per fundum saeptum facias semitam,
dum ted abstineas nupta, vidua, virgine,
iuventúte et pueris liberis, ama quid lubet.

Phaed.
Lenonis hae sunt aedes.

Pal.
Male istis evenat.

Phaed.
Qui?

Pal.
Quia scelestam servitutem serviunt.

Phaed.
Obloquere.

Pal.
Fiat maxume.

Phaed.
Etiam taces?

Pal.
Nempe obloqui me iusseras.

Phaed.
At nunc veto.
sed ita uti occepi dicere: ei ancillula est.

Pal.
Nempe huic lenoni qui hic habitat?

Phaed.
Recte tenes.

Pal.
Minus fórmidabo, ne excidat.

Phaed.
Odiosus es.
eam vólt meretricem facere. éa me deperit,
ego autem cum illa facere nolo mutuom.

Pal.
Quid ita?

Phaed.
Quia proprium facio: amo pariter simul.

Pal.
Malus clándestinus est amor, damnumst merum.

Phaed.
Est hercle ita ut tu dicis.

Pal.
Iamne ea fert iugum?

Phaed.
Tam a me pudica est quasi soror mea sit, nisi
si est osculando quippiam impudicior.

Pal.
Semper tu scito, flamma fumo est proxima;
fumo comburi nil potest, flamma potest.
qui é nuce nuculeum esse volt, frangit nucem:
qui volt cubare, pandit saltum saviis.

Phaed.
At illa ést pudica neque dum cubitat cum viris.

Pal.
Credam, pudor si cuiquam lenoni siet.

Phaed.
Immo ut illam censes? ut quaeque illi occasiost,
subripere se ad me; ubi savium oppegit, fugit.
id eo fit, quia hic leno, hic qui aegrotus incubat
in Aesculapi fano, is me excruciat.

Pal.
Quid est?

Phaed.
Alias me poscit pro illa triginta minas,
alias talentum magnum; neque quicquam queo
aequi bonique ab eo impetrare.

Pal.
Iniuriu's,
qui quod lenoni nulli est id ab eo petas.

Phaed.
Nunc hinc parasitum in Cariam misi meum
petitum argentum a meo sodali mutuom.
quod si non affert, quo me vortam nescio.

Pal.
Si deos salutas, dextrovorsum censeo.

Phaed.
Nunc ara Veneris haec est ante horunc fores;
me inferre Veneri vovi ieientaculum.

Pal.
Quid? tu te pones Veneri ieientaculo?

Phaed.
Me, te atque hosce omnis.

Pal.
Tum tu Venerem vomere vis.

Phaed.
Cedo, puere, sinum.

Pal.
Quid facturu's?

Phaed.
Iam scies.
anus hic solet cubitare custos ianitrix,
nomen Leaenae est, multibiba atque merobiba.

Pal.
Quasi tu lagoenam dicas, ubi vinum Chium
solet ésse.

Phaed.
Quid opust verbis? vinosissima est;
eaque extemplo ubi ego vino has conspersi fores,
de odore adesse me scit, aperit ilico.

Pal.
Eine hic cum vino sinus fertur?

Phaed.
Nisi nevis.

Pal.
Nolo hercle, nam istunc qui fert afflictum velim;
ego nobis afferri cénsui.

Phaed.
Quin tu taces?
si quid super illi fuerit, id nobis sat est.

Pal.
Quisnam istic fluviust, quem non recipiat mare?

Phaed.
Sequere hac, Palinure, me ad fores, fi mi obsequens.

Pal.
Ita faciam.

Phaed.
Agite bibite, festivae fores;
potate, fite mihi volentes propitiae.

Pal.
Voltisne olivas aut pulpamentum aut capparim?

Phaed.
Exsuscitate vostram huc custodem mihi.

Pal.
Profundis vinum: quae te res agitant?

Phaed.
Sine.
viden út aperiuntur aedes festivissumae?
num muttit cardo? est lepidus.

Pal.
Quin das savium?

Phaed.
Tace, occultemus lumen et vocem.

Pal.
Licet.

Leaena
Flós veteris vini meis náribus obiectust,
éius amor cupidam me huc prólicit per tenebras.
ubi ubi ést, prope me est. euáx, habeo.
salve, ánime mi, Líberi lepos.
ut véteris vetus tui cúpida sum.
nam ómnium unguéntum odor praé tuo naútea est,
tú mihi stácta, tu cínnamum, tú rosa,
tú crocinum et casia es, tu télinum,
nam ubi tú profusu's, íbi ego me pérvelim sepultam.
séd quom adhuc náso odos óbsecutúst meo,
da vicissim meo gutturi gaudium.
nil ago tecum: ubi est ipsus? ipsum expeto
tangere, invergere in me liquores tuos,
sine, ductim. sed hac abiit, hac persequar.

Phaed.
Sitit haéc anus.

Pal.
Quantillúm sitit?

Phaed.
Modica ést, capit quadrántal.

Pal.
Pol ut praédicas, vindémia haec huic ánui non sat est sóli.
canem esse hánc quidem magis pár fuit: sagax násum habet.

Leaena
Amábo,
cúia vox sonát procul?

Phaed.
Cénseo hanc áppellandam anum.
adíbo. redi ét respice ád me, Leaéna.

Leaena
Imperatór quis est?

Phaed.
Vínipollens lépidus Liber,
tibí qui screánti, siccaé, semisómnae
adfért potiónem et sitím iam sedátum it.

Leaena
Quám longe a me abest?

Phaed.
Lúmen hoc vide.

Leaena
Grándiorém gradum ergó fac ad me, óbsecro.

Ph.
Sálve.

Le.

Egon sálva sim, quaé siti sícca sum?

Ph.
At iám bibes.

Leaena
Diu fit.

Phaed.

Ém tibi anus lepida.

Leaena
Sálve, oculissime homo.

Pal.
Age, effúnde hoc cito in barathrúm, propere
prolúe cloacam.

Phaed.
Tace. Nólo huic male dicí.

Pal.
Faciam igitur mále potius.

Le.

Venús, de paulo paúlulum hoc tíbi dabo haud lubénter.
nam tíbi amantes própitiantes vínum potantés danunt
omnés, mihi haud saepe évenunt talés hereditátes.

Pal.
Hoc víde ut ingurgitat ímpura in se mérum avariter, faucíbus plenis.

Phaed.
Perii hércle, huic quid primúm dicam nesció.

Pal.
Em istuc, quod míhi dixti.

Phaed.
Quid id ést?

Pal.
Periisse ut té dicas.

Phaed.
Male tibi di faciant.

Pal.
Díc isti.

Le.

Ah.

Pal.
Quíd est? ecquid lubet?

Le.

Lúbet.

Pal.
Etiam mihi quóque stimulo foderé lubet te.

Phaed.
Tace, né —

Pal.
Noli, taceo. écce autem bibit árcus, pluet credo hércle hodie.

Phaed.
Iamne égo huic dico?

Pal.
Quid díces?

Phaed.
Me periísse.

Pal.
Age dice.

Phaed.
Anus, aúdi.
hóc volo scíre te: pérditus súm miser.

Leaena
At pól ego oppidó servata.
séd quid est? quid lubet pérditum dícere
te essé?

Phaed.
Quia id quod amo cáreo.

Leaena
Phaedrome mi, ne plora amabo.
tu mé curato né sitiam, ego tibi quód amas iam huc addúcam. —

Phaed.
Tibine égo, si fidem servás mecum, vineám pro aurea statuá statuam,
quae tuó gutturí sit monumentum.
qui me ín terra aeque fórtunatus erít, si illa ad me bítet,
Palinúre?

Pal.
Edepol qui amát, si eget, misera ádficitur, ere, aerúmna.

Phaed.
Non íta res est, nam cónfido parasítum hodie adventúrum
cum argénto ad me.

Pal.
Magnum ínceptas, si id éxpectas quod núsquamst.

Phaed.
Quid si ádeam ad fores atque óccentem?

Pal.
Si lúbet, neque veto neque iúbeo,
quando égo te video immútatis moribus esse, ere, atque ingénio.

Phaed.
Péssuli, heus péssuli, vós salutó lubens,
vos amo, vos volo, vos peto atque obsecro,

gérite amantí mihi mórem, amoeníssumi,
fite causa mea ludii barbari,
sussilite, obsecro, et mittite istanc foras,
quae mihi misero amanti ebibit sanguinem.
hoc vide ut dormiunt pessuli pessumi
nec mea gratia commovent se ocius.
re spicio, nihili meam vos gratiam facere.
st tace, tace.

Pal.
Taceo hercle equidem.

Phaed.
Sentio sonitum.
tandem edepol mihi morigeri pessuli fiunt.

Leaena
Plácide egredere et sónitum prohibe fórium et crepitum cárdinum,
ne quod hic agimus erus percipiat fieri, mea Planesium.
mane, suffundam aquolam.

Pal.
Viden ut anus tremula medicinam facit?
eapse merum condidicit bibere, foribus dat aquam quam bibant.

Planesivm
Vbi tu es, qui me convadatu's Veneriis vadimoniis?
sisto ego tibi me et mihi contra itidem tu te ut sistas suadeo.

Phaed.
Assum; nam si absim, haud recusem quin mihi male sit, mel meum.

Plan.
Anime mi, me procul amantem abesse haud consentaneumst.

Phaed.
Palinure, Palinure.

Pal.
Eloquere, quid est quod Palinurum voces?

Phaed.
Est lepida.

Pal.
Nimis lepida.

Phaed.
Sum deus.

Pal.
Immo homo haud magni preti.

Phaed.
Quid vidisti aut quid videbis magis dis aequiparabile?

Pal.
Male valere te, quod mi aegrest.

Phaed.
Male mi morigeru's, tace.

Pal.
Ipsus se excruciat qui homo quod amat videt nec potitur dum licet.

Phaed.
Recte obiurgat. sane haud quicquamst, magis quod cupiam iam diu.

Plan.
Tene me, amplectere ergo.

Phaed.
Hoc etiam est quam ob rem cupiam vivere.
quia te prohibet erus, clam ero potior.

Pl.
Prohibet? nec prohibere quit,

nec prohibebit nisi mors méum animum aps te abalienaverit.

Pal.
Enim vero nequeo durare quin ego erum accusem meum:
nam bonum est pauxillum amare sane, insane non bonum est;
verum totum insanum amare, hóc est quod meus erus facit.

Phaed.
Sibi sua habeant regna reges, sibi divitias divites,
sibi honores, sibí virtutes, sibi pugnas, sibi proelia:
dum mi abstineant invidere, sibi quisque habeant quod suom est.

Pal.
Quid tu? Venerin pervigilare te vovisti, Phaedrome?
nam hoc quidem edepol haud multo post luce lucebit.

Phaed.
Tace.

Pal.
Quid, taceam? quin tu is dormitum?

Phaed.
Dormio, ne occlamites.

Pal.
Tu quidem vígilas.

Phaed.
At meo more dormio: hic somnust mihi.

Pal.
Heus tu, mulier, male mereri de inmerente inscitia est.

Plan.
Irascere, si te edentem hic a cibo abigat.

Pal.

Ilicet,
pariter hos perire amando video, uterque insaniunt.
viden ut misere moliuntur? nequeunt complecti satis.
etiam dispertimini?

Plan.
Nullum homini est perpetuom bonum:
iam huic voluptati hoc adiunctum est odium.

Pal.
Quid ais, propudium?
tun etiam cum noctuinis oculis odium me vocas?
ebrióla, persollae nugae.

Phaed.
Tun meam Venerem vituperas?
† quod quidem mihi polluctus virgis servos sermonem serat?
at ne tu hercle cum cruciatu magno dixisti id tuo.
em tibi male dictis pro istis, dictis moderari ut queas.

Pal.
Tuam fidem, Venus noctuvigila.

Phaed.
Pergin etiam, verbero?

Plan.
Noli, amabo, verberare lapidem, ne perdas manum.

Pal.
Flagitium probrumque magnum, Phaedrome, expergefacis:
bene monstrantem pugnis caedis, hanc amas, nugas meras.
hocine fieri, ut inmodestis hic te moderes moribus?

Phaed.
Auro contra cedo modestum amatorem: a me aurum accipe.

Pal.

Cedo mihi contra aurichalco cui ego sano serviam.

Plan.
Bene vale, ocule mi, nam sonitum et crepitum claustrorum audio,
aeditumum aperire fanum ... quo usque, quaeso, ad hunc modum
inter nos amore utemur semper surrepticio?

Phaed.
Minime, nam parasitum misi nudiusquartus Cariam
petere argentum, is hodie hic aderit.

Plan.
Nimium consultas diu.

Phaed.
Ita me Venus amet, ut ego te hoc triduom numquam sinam
in domo esse istac, quin ego te liberalem liberem.

Plan.
Facito ut memineris. tene etiam, prius quam hinc abeo, savium.

Phaed.
Siquidem herclé mihi regnum detur, numquam id potius persequar.
quando ego te videbo?

Plan.
Em istoc verbo vindictam para:
sí amas, eme, ne rogites, facito ut pretio pervincas tuo.
bene vale.

Phaed.
Iamne ego relinquor? pulcre, Palinure, occidi.

Pal.
Ego quidem, qui et vapulando et somno pereo.

Phaed.
Sequere me. —

ACT II.

Cappadox
Migrare certumst iam nunc e fano foras,
quando Aesculapi ita sentio sententiam,
ut qui me nihili faciat nec salvom velit.
valetudo decrescit, adcrescit labor;
nam iam quasi zona liene cinctus ambulo,
geminos in ventre habere videor filios.
nil metuo nisi ne medius disrumpar miser.

Palinvrvs
Si recte facias, Phaedrome, auscultes mihi
atque istam exturbes ex animo aegritudinem.
paves, parasitus quia non rediit Caria:
adferre argentum credo; nam si non ferat,
tormento non retineri potuit ferreo,
quin reciperet se huc esum ad praesepem suam.

Ca.

Quis hic est qui loquitur?

Pa.
Quoiam vocem ego audio?

Capp.
Estne hic Palinurus Phaedromi?

Pal.
Quis hic est homo
cum collativo ventre atque oculis herbeis?
de forma novi, de colore non queo
novisse. iam iam novi: leno est Cappadox.
congrediar.

Capp.

Salve, Palinure.

Pal.
O scelerum caput,
salveto. quid agis?

Capp.
Vivo.

Pal.
Nempe ut dignus es.
sed quid tibi est?

Capp.
Lien enecat, renes dolent,
pulmones distrahuntur, cruciatur iecur,
radices cordis pereunt, hirae omnes dolent.

Pal.
Tum te igitur morbus agitat hepatiarius.

Capp.
Facile est miserum inridere.

Pal.
Quin tu aliquot dies
perdura, dum intestina exputescunt tibi,
nunc dum salsura sat bonast: si id feceris,
venire poteris intestinis vilius.

Capp.
Lien díerectust.

Pal.
Ambula, id lieni optumumst.

Capp.
Aufér istaec, quaeso, atque hoc responde quod rogo.

potin cóniecturam facere, si narrem tibi
hac nocte quod ego somniavi dormiens?

Pal.
Vah, solus hic homost qui sciat divinitus.
quin coniectores a me consilium petunt:
quod eis respondi, ea omnes stant sententia.

Cocvs
Palinure, quid stas? quin depromuntur mihi
quae opus súnt, parasito ut sit paratum prandium,
quom veniat?

Pal.
Mane sis, dum huic conicio somnium.

Coc.
Tute ipse, si quid somniasti, ad me refers.

Pal.
Fateór.

Coc.
Abi, déprome.

Pal.
Age tu interea huic somnium
narra, meliorem quam ego sum suppono tibi.
nam quod scio omne ex hoc scio.

Cap.
Operam ut det.

Pal.
Dabit. —

Capp.
Facit hic quod pauci, ut sit magistro óbsequens.

da mi igitur operam.

Coc.
Tam etsi non novi, dabo.

Capp.
Hac nocte in somnis visus sum viderier
procul sedere longe a me Aesculapium,
neque eum ad me adire neque me magni pendere
visumst.

Coc.
Item alios deos facturos scilicet:
sane illi inter se congruont concorditer.
nihil est mirandum, melius si nil fit tibi,
namque incubare satius te fuerat Iovi,
qui tibi auxilio in iure iurando fuit.

Capp.
Siquidem íncubare vélint qui periuraverint,
locus nón praeberi potis est in Capitolio.

Coc.
Hoc animum advorte: pacem ab Aesculapio
petas, ne forte tibi évenat magnum malum,
quod in quiete tibi portentumst.

Capp.
Bene facis.
ibo atque orabo. —

Coc.
Quae res male vortat tibi. —

Palinvrvs
Pro di immortales, quem conspicio? quis illic est?
estne hic parasitus qui missust in Cariam?
heus Phaedrome, exi, exi, exi, inquam, ocius.

Phaedromvs
Quid istíc clamorem tollis?

Pal.
Parasitum tuom
video currentem ellum usque in plátea ultima.
hinc auscultemus quid agat.

Phaed.
Sane censeo.

Cvrcvlio
Dáte viam mihi, nóti atque ignoti, dúm ego hic officiúm meum
facio: fugite omnes, abite et de via decedite,
ne quem in cursu capite aut cubito aut pectore offendam aut genu.
ita nunc subito, propere et celere obiectumst mihi negotium,
nec homo quisquamst tám opulentus, qui mi obsistat in via,
nec strategus nec tyrannus quisquam, nec agoranomus,
nec demarchus nec comarchus, nec cum tanta gloria,
quin cadat, quin capite sistat in via de semita.
tum isti Graeci palliati, capite operto qui ambulant,
qui incedunt suffarcinati cum libris, cum sportulis,
constant, conferunt sermones inter sese drapetae,
obstant, obsistunt, incedunt cum suis sententiis,
quos semper videas bibentes esse in thermipolio,
ubi quid subripuere: operto capitulo calidum bibunt,
tristes atque ebrioli incedunt: eos ego si offendero,
ex unoquoque eorum exciam crépitum polentarium.
tum isti qui ludunt datatim servi scurrarum in via,
et datores et factores omnis subdam sub solum.
proin se domi contineant ... , vitent infortunio.

Phaed.
Recte hic monstrat, si imperare possit. nam ita nunc mos viget,
ita nunc servitiumst: profecto modus haberi non potest.

Cvr.

Ecquis est qui mihi commonstret Phaedromum genium meum?
ita res subita est, celeriter mihi hoc hómine convento est opus.

Pal.
Te ille quaerit.

Phaed.
Quid si adeamus? heus, Curculio, te volo.

Cvrc.
Quis vocat? quis nominat me?

Phaed.
Qui te conventum cupit.

C.
Haud magis me cupis quam ego te cupio.

Ph.
O mea opportunitas,
Curculio exoptate, salve.

Cvrc.
Salve.

Phaed.
Salvom gaudeo
te advenire. cedo tuam mi dexteram. ubi sunt spes meae?
eloquere, obsecro hércle.

Cvrc.
Eloquere, te óbsecro, ubi súnt meae?

Phaed.
Quid tibist?

Cvrc.
Tenebrae oboriuntur, genua inedia succidunt.

Phaed.
Lassitudine hercle credo.

Cvrc.
Retine, retine me, obsecro.

Phaed.
Viden ut expálluit? datin isti sellam, ubi assidat, cito
et aqualem cum aqua? properatin ocius?

Cvrc.
Animo male est.

Pal.
Vin aquam?

Cvrc.
Si frustulenta est, da, obsecro hercle, obsorbeam.

Pal.
Vae capiti tuo.

Cvrc.
Obsecro hercle, facite ventum ut gaudeam.

Pal.
Maxume.

Cvrc.
Quid facitis, quaeso?

Pal.
Ventum.

Cvrc.
Nolo equidem mihi
fieri ventulum.

Phaed.

Quid igitur vis?

Cvrc.
Esse, ut ventum gaudeam.

Pal.
Iuppiter te dique perdant.

Cvrc.
Perii, prospicio parum,
gramarum habeo dentes plenos, lippiunt fauces fame,
ita cibi vacivitate venio lassis lactibus.

Ph.
Iám edes aliquid.

Cv.

Nolo hercle aliquid: certum quam aliquid mavolo.

Pal.
Immo si scias, reliquiae quae sint.

Cvrc.
Scire nímis lubet
ubi sient, nam illis conventis sane opus est meis dentibus.

Ph.
Pernam, abdomen, sumen sueris, glandium —

Cv.

Ain tu omnia haec?
in carnario fortasse dicis.

Ph.
Immo in lancibus,
quae tibi sunt parata, postquam scimus venturum.

Cvrc.

Vide

ne me ludas.

Phaed.
Ita me amabit quám ego amo, ut ego haud mentior.
sed quod te misi, nihilo sum certior.

Cvrc.
Nihil attuli.

Phaed.
Perdidisti me.

Cvrc.
Invenire possum, si mi operam datis.
postquam tuo iussu profectus sum, perveni in Cariam,
video tuom sodalem, argenti rogo uti faciat copiam.
scires velle gratiam tuam, noluit frustrarier,
ut decet velle hominem amicum amico, atque opitularier:
respondit mihi paucis verbis, atque adeo fideliter,
quod tibi est item sibi esse, magnam argenti ínopiam.

Phaed.
Perdis me tuis dictis.

Cvrc.
Immo servo et servatum volo.
postquam mihi responsum est, abeo ab illo maestus ad forum
med illo frustra advenisse. forte aspicio militem.
aggredior hominem, saluto adveniens. ‘salve’ inquit mihi,
prendit dexteram, seducit, rogat quid veniam Cariam;
dico me illo advenisse animi causa. ibi me interrogat,
ecquem in Epidauro Lyconem tarpezitam noverim.
dico me novisse. ‘quid? lenonem Cappadocem?’ annuo
visitasse. ‘sed quid eum vis?’ “quia de illo emi virginem

triginta minis, vestem, aurum; et pro ís decem coáccedunt minae."
'dédisti tu argentum?' inquam. "ímmo ápud trapezitam situm est
illum quem dixi Lyconem, atque ei mandavi, qui anulo
meo tabellas obsignatas attulisset, ut daret
operam, ut mulierem a lenone cum auro et veste abduceret."
postquam hoc mihi narravit, abeo ab illo. revocat me ilico,
vocat me ad cenam; religio fuit, denegare nolui.
'quid si abeamus ac décumbamus?' inquit. consilium placet:
'neque diem decet morari, neque nocti nocerier.'
'omnis res paratast'. et nos, quibus paratum est, assumus.
postquam cenati atque appoti, talos poscit síbi in manum,
provocat me in aleam, ut ego ludam: pono pallium;
ille suom amiculum opposivit, invocat Planesium.

Phaed.
Meosne amores?

Cvrc.
Tace parumper. iacit volturios quattuor.
talos arripio, invoco almam meam nutricem Hérculem,
iacto basilicum; propino magnum poclum: ille ebibit,
caput deponit, condormiscit. ego ei subduco anulum,
deduco pedes de lecto clam, ne miles sentiat.
rogant me servi quó eam: dico me ire quo saturi solent.
ostium ubi conspexi, exinde me ilico protinam dedi.

Phaed.
Laudo.

Cvrc.
Laudato quando illud quod cupis effecero.

...

eamus nunc intro, ut tabellas consignemus.

Phaed.
Num moror?

Cvrc.
Atque aliquid prius obstrudamus, pernam, sumen, glandium,
haec sunt ventris stabilimenta, pane et assa bubula,
poculum grande, aula magna, ut satis consilia suppetant.
tu tabellas consignato, híc ministrabit, égo edam.
dicam quem ad modum conscribas. sequere me hac intro.

Phaed.
Sequor. —

ACT III.

Lyco
Beatus videor: subduxi ratiunculam,
quantum aeris mihi sit quantumque alieni siet:
dives sum, si non reddo eis quibus debeo.
si reddo illis quibus debeo, plus alieni est.
verum hercle vero cum belle recogito,
si magis me instabunt, ad praetorem sufferam.
habent hunc morem plerique argentarii,
ut alius alium poscant, reddant nemini,
pugnis rem solvant, si quis poscat clarius.
qui homo mature quaesivit pecuniam,
nisi eam mature parsit, mature esurit.
cupio aliquem emere puerum, qui usurarius
nunc mihi quaeratur. usus est pecunia.

Cvrcvlio
Nil tu me saturum monueris. memini et scio.
ego hoc effectum lepide tibi tradam. tace.
edepol ne ego hic med intus explevi probe,
et quidem reliqui in ventre cellae uni locum,
ubi reliquiarum reliquias reconderem.
quis hic est qui operto capite Aesculapium
salutat? attat, quem quaerebam. sequere me.
simulabo quasi non noverim. heus tu, te volo.

Lyc.
Vnocule, salve.

Cvrc.
Quaeso, deridesne me?

Lyc.
De Coclitum prosapia te esse arbitror,
nam ei sunt unoculi.

Cvrc.
Catapulta hoc ictum est mihi
apud Sicyonem.

Lyc.
Nam quid id refert mea,
an aula quassa cum cinere effossus siet?

Cvrc.
Superstitiosus hic quidem est, véra praedicat;
nam illaec catapultae ád me crebro commeant.
adulescens, ob rem publicam hoc intus mihi
quod insigne habeo, quaeso ne me incomities.

Lyc.
Licetne ínforare, si incomitiare non licet?

Cvrc.
Non inforabis me quidem, nec mihi placet
tuom profecto nec forum nec comitium.
sed hunc, quem quaero, commonstrare si potes,
inibis a me solidam et grandem gratiam.
Lyconem quaero tarpezitam.

Lyc.
Dic mihi,
quid eum nunc quaeris? aut cuiati's?

Cvrc.
Eloquar.
ab Therapontigono Platagidoro milite.

Lyc.
Novi edepol nomen, nam mihi istoc nomine,
dum scribo, explevi totas ceras quattuor.
sed quid Lyconem quaeris?

Cvrc.

Mandatumst mihi,
ut has tabellas ad eum ferrem.

Lyc.
Quis tu homo es?

Cvrc.
Libertus illius, quem omnes Summanum vocant.

Lyc.
Summane, salve. qui Summanu's? fac sciam.

Cvrc.
Quia vestimenta, ubi obdormivi ebrius,
summano, ob eam rem me omnes Summanum vocant.

Lyc.
Alibi te meliust quaerere hospitium tibi:
apud mé profecto nihil est Summano loci.
sed istúm quem quaeris ego sum.

Cvrc.
Quaeso, tune is es,
Lyco trapezita?

Lyc.
Ego sum.

Cvrc.
Multam me tibi
salutem iussit Therapontigonus dicere,
et has tabellas dare me iussit.

Lyc.
Mihin?

Cvrc.
Ita.

cape, signum nosce. nostin?

Lyc.
Quidni noverim?
clupeatus elephantum ubi machaera dissicit.

Cvrc.
Quod istic scriptum est, id te orare iusserat
profecto ut faceres, suam si velles gratiam.

Lyc.
Concede, inspiciam quid sit scriptum.

Cvrc.
Maxime,
tuo arbitratu, dum auferam abs te id quod peto.

Lyc.
“Miles Lyconi ín Epidauro hospiti
suo Thérapontigonus Platagidorus plurimam
salutem dicit.”

Cvrc.
Meus hic est, hamum vorat.

Lyc.
“Tecum oro et quaeso, qui has tabellas adferet
tibi, ut ei detur quam istic emi virginem,
quod te praesente isti egi teque interprete,
et aurum et vestem. iam scis ut convenerit:
argentum des lenoni, is huic det virginem.”
ubi ipsus? cur non venit?

Cvrc.
Ego dicam tibi:
quia nudiusquartus venimus in Cariam
ex India; ibi nunc statuam volt dare auream
solidam faciundam ex auro Philippo, quae siet

septempedalis, factis monumentum suis.

Lyc.
Quam ob rem istuc?

Cvrc.
Dicam. quia enim Persas, Paphlagones,
Sinopes, Arabes, Cares, Cretanos, Syros,
Rhodiam atque Lyciam, Perediam et Perbibesiam,
Centauromachiam et Classiam Vnomammiam,
† Libyamque oram omnem Conterebromniam,
dimidiam partem nationum usque omnium
subegit solus intra viginti dies.

Lyc.
Vah.

Cvrc.
Quid mirare?

Lyc.
Quia enim in cavea si forent
conclusi, ítidem ut pulli gallinacei,
ita non potuere uno anno circumirier.
credo hercle te esse ab illo, ita nugas blatis.

Cvrc.
Immo etiam porro, si vis, dicam.

Lyc.
Nil moror.
sequere hac, te absolvam qua advenisti gratia.
atque eccum video. leno, salve.

Cappadox
Di te ament.

Lyc.

Quid hoc quod ad te venio?

Capp.
Dicas quid velis.

Lyc.
Argentum accipias, cum illo mittas virginem.

Capp.
Quid quod iuratus sum?

Lyc.
Quid id refert tua,
dum argentum accipias?

Capp.
Qui monet quasi adiuvat.
90 sequimini.

Cvrc.
Leno, cave in té sit mora mihi. —

ACT IV.

Choragvs
Edepol nugatorem lepidum lepide hunc nactust Phaedromus.
halapantam an sycophantam mágis esse dicam nescio.
ornamenta quae locavi metuo ut possim recipere;
quamquam cum istoc mihi negoti nihil est: ipsi Phaedromo
credidi; tamen asservabo. sed dum hic egreditur foras,
commonstrabo, quo in quemque hominem facile inveniatis loco,
ne nimio opere sumat operam si quem conventum velit,
vel vitiosum vel sine vitio, vel probum vel improbum.
qui periurum convenire volt hominem ito in comitium;
qui mendacem et gloriosum, ápud Cloacinae sacrum,
ditis damnosos maritos sub basilica quaerito.
ibidem erunt scorta exoleta quique stipulari solent,
symbolarum collatores apud forum piscarium.
in foro infimo boni homines atque dites ambulant,
in medio propter canalem, ibi ostentatores meri;
confidentes garrulique et malevoli supera lacum,
qui alteri de nihilo audacter dicunt contumeliam
et qui ipsi sat habent quod in se possit vere dicier.
sub veteribus, ibi sunt qui dant quique accipiunt faenore.
pone aedem Castoris, ibi sunt subito quibus credas male.
in Tusco vico, ibi sunt homines qui ipsi sese venditant,
in Velabro vel pistorem vel lanium vel haruspicem
vel qui ipsi vorsant vel qui aliis ubi vorsentur praebeant.
ditis damnosos maritos apud Leucadiam Oppiam.
sed interim fores crepuere: linguae moderandum est mihi. —

Cvrcvlio
I tú prae, virgo: nón queo quod póne me est serváre.
et aurum et vestem omnem suam esse aiebat quam haec haberet.

Cappadox
Nemo it infitias.

Cvrc.
At tamen meliusculum est monere.

Lyco
Memento promisisse te, si quisquam hanc liberali
causa manu assereret, mihi omne argentum redditum iri,
minas triginta.

Capp.
Meminero, de istoc quietus esto.
et nunc idem dico.

Cvrc.
Et quidem meminisse ego haec volam te.

Capp.
Memini, et mancupio tibi dabo.

Cvrc.
Egon ab lenone quicquam
mancupio accipiam, quibus sui nihil est nisi una lingua,
qui abiurant si quid creditum est? alienos mancupatis,
alienos manu emittitis alienisque imperatis,
nec vobis auctor ullus est nec vosmet estis ulli.
item genus est lenonium inter homines meo quidem animo
ut muscae, culices, cimices pedesque pulicesque:
odio et malo et molestiae, bono usui estis nulli,
nec vobiscum quisquam in foro frugi consistere audet;
qui constitit, culpant eum, conspicitur vituperatur,
eum rem fidemque perdere, tam etsi nil fecit, aiunt.

Lyc.
Edepol lenones meo animo novisti, lusce, lepide.

Cvrc.
Eodem hércle vos pono et paro: parissimi estis hibus:
hi saltem in occultis locis prostant, vos in foro ipso;
vos faenore homines, hi male suadendo et lustris lacerant.

rogitationis plurimas propter vos populus scivit,
quas vos rogatas rumpitis: aliquam reperitis rimam;
quasi aquam ferventem frigidam esse, ita vos putatis leges.

Lyc.
Tacuisse mavellem.

Capp.
Hau male meditate maledicax es.

Cvrc.
Indignis si male dicitur, male dictum id esse dico,
verum si dignis dicitur, bene dictumst meo quidem animo.
ego mancupem te nil moror nec lenonem alium quemquam.
Lyco, numquid vis?

Ly.
Bene vale.

Cv.

Vale.

Ca.

Heus tu, tibi ego dico.

Cvrc.
Eloquere, quid vis?

Capp.
Quaeso, ut hanc cures, ut bene sit isti.
bene ego istam eduxi meae domi et pudice.

Cvrc.
Si huius miseret,
ecquid das qui bene sit?

Capp.

Malúm.

Cvrc.
Opust hóc qui te procures.

Capp.
Quid stulta ploras? ne time, bene hercle vendidi égo te;
fac sis bonae frugi sies, sequere istum bella belle.

Lyc.
Summane, numquid nunciam me vis?

Cvrc.
Vale atque salve,
nam et operam et pecuniam benigne praebuisti.

Lyc.
Salutem multam dicito patrono.

Cvrc.
Nuntiabo. —

Lyc.
Numquid vis, leno?

Capp.
Istas minas decem, qui me procurem,
dum melius sit mihi, des.

Lyc.
Dabuntur, cras peti iubeto. —

Capp.
Quando bene gessi rem, volo hic in fano supplicare.
nam illam minis olim decem puellam parvolam emi,
sed eum qui mi illam vendidit numquam postilla vidi;
periisse credo. quíd id mea refert? ego argentum habeo.
quoi hómini di sunt propitii, lucrum ei profecto obiciunt.

nunc rei divinae operam dabo. certumst bene me curare. —
Therapontigonvs
Nón ego nunc medíocri incedo irátus iracúndia,
sed eapse illa qua excidionem facere condidici oppidis.
nunc nisi tu mihi propere properas dare iam triginta minas,
quas ego apud te deposivi, vitam propera ponere.

Lyco
Non edepol nunc ego te mediocri macto infortunio,
sed eopse illo quo mactare soleo quoi nil debeo.

Ther.
Ne te mi facias ferocem aut supplicare censeas.

Lyc.
Nec tu me quidem umquam subiges, redditum ut reddam tibi,
nec daturus súm.

Ther.
Idem ego istuc quom credebam credidi,
te nihil esse redditurum.

Lyc.
Quor nunc a me igitur petis?

Ther.
Scire volo quoi reddidisti.

Lyc.
Lusco liberto tuo,
is Summanum se vocari dixit, éi reddidi.
qui has tabellas obsignatas attulit.

Ther.
Quas tu mihi tabellas?
quos tu mihi luscos libertos, quos Summanos somnias?
nec mihi quidém libertus ullust.

Lyc.
Fácis sapientius
quam pars † lenonum, libertos quí habent et eos deserunt.

Ther.
Quid feci †

Lyc.
Quod mandasti feci, túi honoris gratia,
tuom qui signum ad me attulisset, nuntium ne spernerem.

Ther.
Stultior stulto fuisti, qui tabellis crederes.

Lyc.
Quis res publica et privata geritur, nonne eis crederem?
ego abeo, tibi res solutast recte. bellator, vale.

Ther.
Quid valeam?

Lyc.
Aut tu aegrota aetatem, si lubet, per me quidem. —

Ther.
Quid ego nunc faciam? quid refert me fecisse regibus
ut mi oboedirent, si hic me hodie umbraticus deriserit?

Cappadox
Quoi homini di sunt propitii, ei non esse iratos puto.
postquam rem divinam feci, venit in mentem mihi,
ne trapezita exulatum abierit, argentum ut petam,
ut ego potius comedim quam ille.

Ther.
Iusseram salvere te.

Capp.

Therapontigone Platagidore, salve; salvos quom advenis
in Epidaurum, hic hodie apud me — numquam delinges salem.

Ther.
Bene vocas, verum locata res est — ut male sit tibi.
sed quid agit meum mercimonium ápud te?

Capp.
Nil apud mé quidem,
ne facias testis, neque equidem debeo quicquam.

Ther.
Quid est?

Capp.
Quod fui iuratus feci.

Ther.
Reddin an non virginem,
prius quam te huic meae machaerae óbicio, mastigia?

Capp.
Vapulare ego te vehementer iubeo: ne me territes.
illa abductast, tu auferere hinc a me, si perges mihi
male loqui, profecto, cuí ego nisi malum nil debeo.

T.
Mihin malum minitare?

C.
Atque edepol non minitabor, sed dabo,
mihi si perges mólestus esse.

Ther.
Leno minitatur mihi,
meaeque pugnae proeliares plurimae optritae iacent?
at ita me machaera et clupeus ...
bene iuvent pugnantem in acie: nisi mi virgo redditur,

iam ego te faciam ut hic formicae frustillatim differant.

Capp.
At ita me volsellae, pecten, speculum, calamistrum meum
bene me amassint meaque axitia linteumque extersui,
ut ego tua magnifica verba néque istas tuas magnas minas
non pluris facio quam ancillam meam quae latrinam lavat.
ego illam reddidi qui argentum a te attulit.

Ther.
Quis is est homo?

Capp.
Tuom libertum ésse aiebat sese Summanum.

Ther.
Meum?
attat, Curculio hercle verba mihi dedit, cum cogito.
is mihi anulum subripuit.

Capp.
Perdidistin tu anulum?
miles pulchre centuriatus est expuncto in manipulo.

Ther.
Vbi nunc Curculionem inveniam?

Capp.
In tritico facillume,
vel quingentos curculiones pro uno faxo reperias.
ego abeo, vale atque salve. —

Ther.
Male vale, male sit tibi.
quid ego faciam? maneam an abeam? sicin mi esse os oblitum?
cupio dare mercedem qui illunc ubi sit commonstret mihi.

ACT V.

Cvrcvlio
Antiquom poe+tam audivi scripsisse in tragoedia,
mulieres duas peiores esse quam unam. res itast.
verum mulierem peiorem quam haec amica est Phaedromi
non vidi aut audivi, neque pol dici nec fingi potest
peior quam haec est: quae ubi me habere hunc conspicatast anulum,
rogat unde habeam. ‘quid id tu quaeris?’ ‘quia mi quaesitost opus.’
nego me dicere. ut eum eriperet, manum arripuit mordicus.
vix foras me abripui atque effugi. apage istanc canículam.

Planesivm
Phaedrome, propera.

Phaedromvs
Quid properem?

Plan.
Parasitum ne amiseris.
magna res est.

Phaed.
Nulla est mihi, nam quam habui absumpsi celeriter.

Plan.
Teneo.

Phaed.
Quid negotist?

Plan.
Rogita unde istunc habeat anulum.
pater istum meus gestitavit ...

Cvrc.

At mea matertera.

Plan.
Mater ei utendum dederat.

Cvrc.
Pater † uois rusum tibi.

Plan.
Nugas garris.

Cvrc.
Soleo, nam propter eas vivo facilius.

Plan.
Quid nunc? obsecro, parentes ne meos mihi prohibeas.

Cvrc.
Quid ego? sub gemmane abstrusos habeo tuam matrem et patrem?

Plan.
Libera ego sum nata.

Cvrc.
Et alii multi qui nunc serviunt.

Phaed.
Enim vero irascor.

Cvrc.
Dixi equidem tibi, unde ad me hic pervenerit.
quotiens dicendum est? elusi militem, inquam, in alea.

Th.
Salvos sum, eccum quem quaerebam. quid agis, bone vir?

Cv.

Audio.

si vis tribus bolis, vel in chlamydem.

Ther.
Quin tu is in malam crucem
cum bolis, cum bulbis? redde mihi iam argentum aut virginem.

Cvrc.
Quod argentum, quas tu mihi tricas narras? quam tu virginem
me reposcis?

Ther.
Quam ab lenone ábduxti hodie, scelus viri.

C.
Nullam abduxi.

T.
Certe eccistam video.

Ph.
Virgo haec libera est.

Ther.
Mean ancilla libera ut sit, quam ego numquam emisi manu?

Phaed.
Quis tibi hanc dedit mancipio? aut unde emisti? fac sciam.

Ther.
Ego quidem pro istac rem solvi áb trapezita meo.
quam ego pecuniam quadruplicem ábs te et lenone auferam.

Phaed.
Qui scis mercari furtivas atque ingenuas virgines,
ambula in ius.

Ther.
Non eo.

Phaed.
Licet te antestari?

Ther.
Non licet.

Phaed.
Iuppiter te, miles, perdat, intestatus vivito;
at ego, quem licet, te. accede huc.

Ther.
Servom antestari?

Cvrc.
Vide.

em ut scias me liberum esse. ergo ambula in ius.

Ther.
Em tibi.

C.
O cives, cives.

T.
Quid clamas?

Ph.
Quid tibi istum tactio est?

T.
Quia mihi lubitum est.

Ph.
Accede huc tu, ego illum tibi dedam, tace.

Plan.
Phaedrome, obsecro serva me.

Ph.
Tamquam me et genium meum.
miles, quaeso te ut mihi dicas unde illum habeas anulum,
quem parasitus hic te elusit.

Plan.
Per tua genua te obsecro,
ut nos facias certiores.

Ther.
Quid istuc ad vos attinet?
quaeratis chlamydem et machaeram hanc unde ad me pervenerit.

Cvrc.
Vt fastidit gloriosus.

Ther.
Mitte istum, ego dicam omnia.

Cvrc.
Nihil est quod ille dicit.

Plan.
Fac me certiorem, óbsecro.

Ther.
Ego dícam, surge. hanc rem ágite atque animum advórtite.
pater meus habuit Periplanes †Planesium
is prius quam moritur mihi dedit tamquam suo,
ut aequom fuerat, filio.

Plan.
Pro Iuppiter.

Ther.
Et istó me heredem fecit.

Plan.

O Pietas mea,
serva me, quando ego te servavi sedulo.
frater mi, salve.

Ther.
Qui credam ego istuc? cedo,
si vera memoras, quae fuit mater tua?

Plan.
Cleobula.

Ther.
Nutrix quae fuit?

Plan.
Archestrata.
ea me spectatum tulerat per Dionysia.
postquam illo ventum est, iam, ut me collocaverat,
exoritur ventus turbo, spectacla ibi ruont,
ego pertimesco: tum ibi mé nescio quis arripit
timidam atque pavidam, nec vivam nec mortuam.
nec quo me pacto abstulerit possum dicere.

Ther.
Memini istanc turbam fieri. sed tu dic mihi,
ubi is est homó qui te surripuit?

Plan.
Nescio.
verum hunc servavi semper mecum una anulum;
cum hoc olim perii.

Ther.
Cedo, ut inspiciam.

Cvrc.
Sanan es,
quae isti committas?

Plan.
Sine modo.

Ther.
Pro Iuppiter,
hic est quem egó tibi misi natali die.
tam facile novi quam me. salve, mea soror.

Plan.
Frater mi, salve.

Phaed.
Deos volo bene vortere
istam rem vobis.

Cvrc.
Et ego nobis omnibus:
tu ut hodie adveniens cenam des sororiam,
hic nuptialem cras dabit. promittimus.

Ther.
Tace tú.

Cvrc.
Non taceo, quando res vortit bene.
tu istanc desponde huic, miles. ego dotem dabo.

Ther.
Quid dotis?

Cvrc.
Egone? ut semper, dum vivat, me alat.
verum hercle dico.

Ther.
Me lubente feceris.
sed leno hic debet nobis triginta minas.

Phaed.
Quam ob rem istuc?

Ther.
Quia ille íta repromisit mihi:
si quisquam hanc liberali asseruisset manu,
sine controversia omne argentum reddere.
nunc eamus ad lenonem.

Cvrc.
Laudo.

Phaed.
Hoc prius volo,
meam rem ágere.

Ther.
Quid id est?

Phaed.
Vt mihi hanc despondeas.

Cvrc.
Quid cessas, miles, hanc huic uxorem dare?

T.
Si haec volt.

Pl.
Mi frater, cupio.

T.
Fiat.

C.
Bene facis.

Phaed.

Spondesne, miles, mi hanc uxorem?

Ther.
Spondeo.

Cvrc.
Et ego hoc idem una spondeo.

Ther.
Lepide facis.
sed eccúm lenonem, incedit, thensaurum meum.

Cappadox
Argentariis male credi qui aiunt, nugas praedicant:
nam et bene et male credi dico; id adeo ego hodie expertus sum.
non male creditur qui numquam reddunt, sed prorsum perit.
vel ille, décem minas dum solvit, omnis mensas transiit.
postquam nil fit, clamore hominem posco: ille in ius me vocat;
pessume metui, ne mihi hodie ápud praetorem solveret.
verum amici compulerunt: reddit argentum domo.
nunc domum properare certumst.

Ther.
Heus tu, leno, te volo.

Phaed.
Et ego te volo.

Capp.
At ego vos nolo ambos.

Ther.
Sta sis ilico,
atque argentum propere propera vomere.

Capp.
Quid mecum est tibi?
aut tibi?

Ther.
Quía ego ex te hódie faciam pilum catapultarium
atque ita te nervo torquebo, ítidem ut catapultae solent.

Phaed.
Delicatum te hodie faciam, cum catello ut accubes,
ferreo ego dico.

Capp.
At ego vos ambo in robusto carcere
ut pereatis.

Phaed.
Collum obstringe, abduce istum in malam crucem.

Th.
Quidquid est, ipse ibit potius.

Ca.

Pro deum atque hominum fidem,
hocine pacto indemnatum atque intestatum me abripi?
obsecro, Planesium, et te, Phaedrome, auxilium ut feras.

Plan.
Frater, obsecro te, noli hunc condemnatum perdere.
bene et pudice me domi habuit.

Ther.
Haud voluntate id sua:
Aesculapio huic habeto, quom pudica es, gratiam;
nam si valuisset, iam pridem quoquo posset mitteret.

Phaed.
Animum advortite, ego si possum hoc inter vos componere.
mitte istunc. accede huc, leno. dicam meam sententiam,
siquidem voltis quod decrero facere.

Ther.
Tibi permittimus:

Capp.
Dum quidem hercle ita iudices, ne quisquam a me argentum auferat.

T.
Quódne promisti?

Ca.

Qui promisi?

Ph.
Lingua.

Ca.

Eadem nunc nego.
dicendi, non rem perdendi gratia haec nata est mihi.

Ph.
Nihil agit, collum obstringe homini.

Ca.

Iam iam faciam ut iusseris.

Ther.
Quando vir bonus es, responde quod rogo.

Capp.
Roga quód lubet.

Ther.
Promistin, si liberali quisquam hanc assereret manu,
te omne argentum redditurum?

Capp.

Non commemini dicere.

Ther.
Quid? negas?

Capp.
Nego hercle vero. quo praesente? quo in loco?

Ther.
Me ipso praesente et Lycone tarpezita.

Capp.
Non taces?

Ther.
Non taceo.

Capp.
Non ego te flocci facio; ne me territes.

Ther.
Me ipso praesente et Lycone factum est.

Phaed.
Satis credo tibi.
nunc adeo, ut tu scire possis, leno, meam sententiam:
libera haec est, hic huius frater est, haec autem illius soror, †
haec mihi nubet: tu huic argentum redde. hoc iudicium meum est.

Ther.
Tu autem in nervo iam iacebis, nisi mi argentum redditur.

Capp.
Hercle istam rem iudicasti perfidiose, Phaedrome.
et tibi oberit et te, miles, di deaeque perduint.
tu me sequere.

Ther.

Quo sequar te?

Capp.
Ad trapezitam meum
ad praetorem. nam inde rem solvo omnibus quibus debeo.

Ther.
Ego te in nervom, haud ad praetorem hinc rapiam, ni argentum refers.

Capp.
Ego te vehementer perire cupio, ne tu me nescias.

Ther.
Itane vero?

Capp.
Ita hercle vero.

Ther.
Novi ego hos pugnos meos.

Capp.
Quid tum?

Ther.
Quid tum, rogitas? hisce ego, si tu me irritaveris,
placidum te hodie reddam.

Capp.
Age ergo, recipe áctutum.

Ther.
Licet.

Phaed.
Tu, miles, apud me cenabis. hodie fient nuptiae.

Ther.

Quae res bene vortat mi et vobis. spectatores, plaudite.

EPIDICUS

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ACT I.

Epidicvs
Heús, adulescens.

Thesprio
Quís properantem mé reprehendit pállio?

Ep.
Familiaris.

Th.
Fateor, nam odio es nimium familiariter.

Ep.
Réspice vero, Thésprio.

Th.
Oh,
Epidicumne ego conspicor?

Ep.
Satis recte oculis uteris.

Th.
Salve.

Ep.
Di dent quae velis.
veníre salvom gaudeo.

Th.
Quid ceterum?

Ep.
Quod eo adsolet:
cena tibi dabitur.

Th.
Spondeo.

Ep.
Quid?

Th.
Me accepturum, si dabis.

Ep.
Quid tú agis? ut vales? exemplum adesse intellego. euge,
córpulentior videre atque habitior.

Th.
Huic gratia.

Ep.
Quám quidem te iam diu
perdidisse oportuit.

T.
Mínus iam furtificus sum quam antehac.

E.
Quid ita?

T.
Rapio propalam.

Ep.
Di immortales te infelicent, ut tu es gradibus grandibus.
nam út apud portum te conspexi, curriculo occepi sequi:
vix adipiscendi potestas modo fuit.

Th.
Scurra es.

Ep.

Scio
te esse equidem hominem militarem.

Th.
Audacter quam vis dicito.
quid ais? perpetuen valuisti?

Ep.
Varie.

Th.
Qui varie valent,
capreáginum hominum nón placet mihi néque pantherinúm genus.

Ep.
Quid tíbi vis dicam nisi quod est? ut illaé res? responde.

Th.
Probe.

Ep.
Quid erílis noster filius?

Th.
Valet púgilice atque athletice.

Ep.
Voluptábilem mihi nuntium tuo advéntu adportas, Thesprio.
sed ubíst is?

Th.
Advenit simul.

Ep.
Vbi is ergo est? nisi si in vidulo
aut si in mellina attulisti.

Th.

Di te perdant.

Ep.
Te volo —
percóntari: operam da, ópera reddetúr tibi.

Th.
Ius dícis.

Ep.
Me decet.

Th.
Iam tu autem nobis praeturam geris?

Ep.
Quem díces digniorem esse hominem hódie Athenis alterum?

Th.
At únum a praetura tua,
Epídice, abest.

Ep.
Quidnam?

Th.
Scies:
lictores duo, duo ulmei
fasces virgarum.

Ep.
Vae tibi.
sed quíd ais?

Th.
Quid rogas?

Ep.

Vbi árma sunt Stratíppocli?

T.
Pól illa ad hostis transfugerunt.

E.
Armane?

T.
Atque equidem cito.

Ep.
Sérione dicis tu?

Th.
Sério, inquam: hostes habent.

Ep.
Édepol facinus improbum.

Th.
At iam ante alii fecerunt idem.
erit illi illa res honori.

Ep.
Qui?

Th.
Quia ante aliis fuit.
Mulciber, credo, arma fecit quaé habuit Stratippocles:
travolaverunt ad hostis.

Ep.
Tum ille prognatus Theti
sine perdat: alia apportabunt éi Nerei filiae.
id módo videndum est, ut materies suppetat scutariis,
si in singulis stipendiis is ad hostis exuvias dabit.

Th.
Supersede istis rebus iam.

Ep.
Tu ipse, ubi lubet, finem face.

Th.
Desiste percontarier.

Ep.
Loquere ipse: ubist Stratippocles?

Th.
Est causa qua causa simul mecum ire veritust.

Ep.
Quidnam id est?

Th.
Patrem videre se nevolt etiam nunc.

Ep.
Quapropter?

Th.
Scies.
quia forma lepida et liberali captivam adulescentulam
dé praeda mercatust.

Ep.
Quid ego ex te audio?

Th.
Hoc quod fabulor.

Ep.
Cúr eam emit?

Th.

Animi causa.

Ep.
Quót illic homo animos habet?
nam cérto, prius quam hinc ád legionem abiít domo,
ipsús mandavit mi, áb lenone ut fídicina,
quam amábat, emeretúr sibi. id ei ímpetratum réddidi.

Th.
Vtcúmque in alto ventust, Epidice, exim velum vortitur.

Ep.
Vaé misero mihí, male perdidit me.

Th.
Quíd istuc? quidnam est?

Ep.
Quid istanc quam emit, quanti eam emit?

Th.

Vili.

Ep.
Haud istuc te rogo.

Th.
Quid ígitur?

Ep.
Quot minis?

Th.
Tot: quadraginta minis.
íd adeo argentum ab danista apud Thébas sumpsit faenore,
in dies minasque argenti singulas nummis.

Ep.

Papae.

Th.
Ét is danista advenit una cúm eo, qui argentum petit.

Ep.
Di immortales, ut ego interii basilice.

Th.
Quid iam? aut quid est,
Epídice?

Ep.
Perdidit me.

Th.
Quís?

Ep.
Ille qui arma pérdidit.

Th.
Nam quíd ita?

Ep.
Quia cottidie ipse ad me ab legione epistulas
mittebat — sed taceam optumum est,
plus scire satiust quam loqui servom hominem. ea sapientia est.

Th.
Néscio edepol quid tu timidus es, trepidas, Epidice, ita voltum tuom†
videór videre commeruisse hic me absente in te aliquid mali.

Ep.
Potin út molestus ne sies?

Th.

Abeo.

Ep.
Asta, abire hinc non sinam.

Th.
Quíd nunc me retinés?

Ep.
Amatne ístam quam emit de praeda?

Th.
Rogas?
deperit.

Ep.
Detegetur corium de tergo meo. †

Th.
Plusque amat quam te umquam amavit.

Ep.
Iuppiter te perduit.

Th.
Mítte nunciam, nam ílle me vetuit domum
venire, ad Chaeribulum iussit huc in proxumum;
íbi manere iussit, eo venturust ipsus.

Ep.
Quid ita?

Th.
Dicam:
quía patrem prius convenire se non volt neque conspicari,
quám id argentum, quod debetur pro illa, denumeraverit.

Ep.

Eú edepol res turbulentas.

Th.
Mitte me ut eam nunciam.

Ep.
Haécine ubi scibit senex,
púppis pereunda est probe.

Th.
Quíd istuc ad me attinet,
quó tu intereas modo?

Ep.
Quía perire solus nolo, te cupio perire mecum,
benevolens cum benevolente.

Th.
Abi ín malam rem maxumam a me
cum ístac condicione.

Ep.
I sane, siquidem festinas magis.

Th.
Numquam hominem quemquam conveni, unde abierim lubentius. —

Ep.
Illic hinc abiit. solus nunc es. quo in loco haec res sit vides,
Epidice: nisi quid tibi in tete auxili est, absumptus es.
tantae in te impendent ruinae: nisi suffulcis firmiter,
non potes subsistere, itaque in te inruont montes mali.
néque ego nunc quó modo
me éxpeditum ex impedito faciam, consilium placet.
égo miser pérpuli
meís dolis senem, ut censeret suam sese emere filiam:
ís suo fílio
fídicinam emit, quam ipse amat, quam ábiens mandavit mihi.

sí sibi nunc álteram
áb legione adduxit animi causa, corium perdidi.
nam úbi senex sénserit
síbi data esse verba, virgis dorsum despoliet meum.
át enim tu praecave.
át enim — bat enim, nihil est istuc. plane hoc corruptumst caput.
néquam homo es, Epidice.
quí lubidost male loqui?
quía tu tete deseris.
quíd faciam? mén rogas?
tu quidem antehac aliis solebas dare consilia mutua.
aliquid aliqua reperiundumst. sed ego cesso ire obviam
adulescenti, ut quid negoti sit sciam. atque ipse illic est.
tristis est. cum Chaeribulo incedit aequali suo.
huc concedam, orationem unde horum placide persequar.

Stratippocles
Rem tibi sum elocutus omnem, Chaeribule, atque admodum
meorum maerorum atque amorum summam edictavi tibi.

Chaeribvlvs
Praeter aetatem et virtutem stultus es, Stratippocles.
idne pudet te, quia captivam genere prognatam bono
de praeda es mercatus? quis erit, vitio qui id vortat tibi?

Str.
Qui invident omnes inimicos mi illoc facto repperi;
at pudicitiae eius numquam nec vim nec vitium attuli.

Chaer.
Iam istoc probior es meo quidem animo, cúm in amore temperes.

Str.
Nihil agit qui diffidentem verbis solatur suis;
is est amicus, qui in re dubia re iuvat, ubi rest opus.

Chaer.
Quid tibi me vis facere?

Str.
Argenti dare quadraginta minas,
quod danistae detur, unde ego illud sumpsi faenore.

Chaer.
Si hercle haberem ...

Str.
Nam quid te igitur retulit
beneficum esse oratione, si ad rem auxilium emortuom est?

Chaer.
Quin edepol egomet clamore differor, difflagitor.

Str.
Malim istius modi mihi amicos furno mersos quam foro.
sed operam Epidici nunc me emere pretio pretioso velim.
quem quidem égo hominem irrigatum plagis pistori dabo,
nisi hodie prius comparassit mihi quadraginta minas,
quam argenti fuero elocutus ei postremam syllabam.

Ep.
Salva res est: bene promittit, spero servabit fidem.
sine meo sumptu paratae iam sunt scapulis symbolae.
aggrediar hominem. advenientem péregre erum suom Stratippoclem
impertit salute servos Epidicus.

Str.
Vbi is est?

Ep.
Adest.
salvom huc advenisse —

Str.
Tam tibi istuc credo quam mihi.

Ep.

Benene usque valuisti?

Str.
A morbo valui, ab animo aeger fui.

Ep.
Quod ad me attinuit, ego curavi: quod mandavisti mihi
impetratum est, empta ancilla, quod tute ad me litteras
missiculabas.

Str.
Perdidisti omnem operam.

Ep.
Nam qui perdidi?

Str.
Quia meo neque cara est cordi neque placet.

Ep.
Quid retulit
mihi tanto opere te mandare et mittere ad me epistulas?

Str.
Illam amabam olím, nunc iam alia cura impendet pectori.

Ep.
Hercle miserum est ingratum esse hómini id quod facias bene.
ego quod bene feci male feci, quia amor mutavit locum.

Str.
Desipiebam mentis, cum illa scripta mittebam tibi.

Ep.
Men piacularem oportet fieri ob stultitiam tuam,
ut meum tergum tuae stultitiae subdas succidaneum?

Str.

Quid istic? verba facimus. huic homini ópust quadraginta minis celeriter calidis, danistae quas resolvat, et cito.

Ep.
Dic modo unde auferre me vis. a quo trápezita peto?

Str.
Vnde libet. nam ni ante solem occasum elo ...
meam domum ne inbitas: tu te in pistrinum ...

Ep.
Facile tu istuc sine periclo et cura, corde libero
fabulare; novi ego nostros: mihi dolet cum ego vapulo.

Str.
Quid tu nunc? patierin ut ego me interimam?

Ep.
Ne feceris.
ego istuc accedam periclum potius atque audaciam.

Str.
Nunc places, nunc ego te laudo.

Ep.
Patiar ego istuc quod lubet.

Str.
Quid illa fiet fidicina igitur?

Ep.
Aliqua res reperibitur,
aliqua ope exsólvar, extricabor aliqua.

Str.
Plenus consili es.
novi ego te.

Ep.
Est Euboicus miles locuples, multo auro potens,
qui úbi tibi istam emptam esse scibit atque hanc adductam alteram,
continuo te orabit ultro ut illam tramittas sibi.
sed ubi illa est quam tu adduxisti tecum?

Str.
Iam faxo hic erit.

Ch.
Quid hic nunc agimus?

St.
Eamus intro huc ad te, ut hunc hodie diem
luculentum habeamus. —

Ep.
Ite intro, ego de re argentaria
iam senatum convocabo in corde consiliarium,
quoi potissimum indicatur bellum unde argentum auferam.
Epidice, vide quid agas, ita res subito haec obiectast tibi;
non enim núnc tibi dormitandi neque cunctandi copia est:
adeundumst. senem oppugnare certumst consilium mihi.
i ábi intro atque ádulescenti dic iam nostro erili filio,
ne hinc foras ámbulet neve usquam óbviam veniat seni. —

ACT II.

Apoecides
Plérique homines, quós cum nil refért pudet,
úbi pudendum est íbi eos deserit pudor,
quom úsus est ut pudeat.
ís adeo tu és. quid est quód pudendúm siet,
génere natám bono paúperem domum
dúcere te uxorem?
praesértim eam, qua ex tibi cómmemores hanc quaé domist
fíliam prognatam.

Periphanes
Révereor filium.

Ap.
At pól ego te crédidi
úxorem, quam tu éxtulistí, pudore éxsequi,
cúius quotiéns sepulcrúm vides, sácruficas
ílico Orco hóstiis, néque adeo iniúria,
quiá licitumst eam tíbi vivendo vincere.

Per.
Oh,
Hércules égo fui, dum ílla mecúm fuit;
neque séxta aerumna acérbior Herculí, quam illa mihi obiéctast.

Ap.
Pulcra édepol dos pecuniast.

Per.
Quae quidem pol non maritast.

Epidicvs
St, tacéte, habete animúm bonum.
liquido éxeo foras auspício, aví sinistra;
acútum cultrum habeó, senis qui exénterem marsúppium.

sed eccum ípsum ante aedis conspicor Apoecide†
qualis volo vetulos duo.
iam ego mé convortam in hirúdinem atque eorum éxsugebo sánguinem,
senáti qui columén cluent.

...

{(&7Ap&.)} cóntinuo ut maritus fiat.

Per.
Laudo consilium tuom.
nam égo illum audivi in amorem haerere apud néscio quam fidicinam,
íd ego excrucior.

Ep.
Di hercle omnis me ádiuvant augent amant:
ipsi hí quidem mihi dant viam, quo pacto ab se argentum auferam.
age núnciam orna te, Epidice, et palliolum in collum conice
itaque ádsimulato quasi per urbem totam hominem quaesiveris.
áge, si quid agis. di immortales, utinam conveniam domi
Periphanem, per omnem urbém quem sum defessus quaerere:
per medicinas, per tonstrinas, in gymnasio atque in foro,
per myropolia et lanienas circumque argentarias.
rogitando sum raucus factus, paene in cursu concidi.

Per.
Epidice.

Ep.
Epidicum quis est qui revocat?

Per.
Ego sum, Periphanes.

Ap.
Et ego Apoecides sum.

Ep.
Et ego quidem sum Epidicus. sed, ere, optuma
vos video opportunitate ambo advenire.

Per.
Quid rei est?

Ep.
Mane dum, sine respirem quaeso.

Per.
Immo adquiesce.

Ep.
Animo malest.

A.
Recipe anhelitum.

P.
Clementer, requiesce.

E.
Animum advortite.
a legione omnes remissi sunt domum Thebis.

Ap.
Quis hoc
dicit factum?

E.
Ego ita factum esse dico.

P.
Scin tu istuc?

E.
Scio.

Per.
Qui tu scis?

Ep.
Quia ego ire vidi milites plenis viis;
arma referunt et iumenta ducunt.

Per.
Nimis factum bene.

Ep.
Tum captivorum quid ducunt secum! pueros, virgines,
binos, ternos, alius quinque; fit concursus per vias,
filios suos quisque visunt.

Per.
Hercle rem gestam bene.

Ep.
Tum meretricum numerus tantus, quantum in urbe omni fuit,
obviam ornatae occurrebant suis quaeque amatoribus,
eos captabant. id adeo qui maxime animum advorterim?
pleraeque eae sub vestimentis secum habebant retia.
quom ad portam venio, átque ego illam ílli video praestolarier
et cum ea tibicinae ibant quattuor.

Per.
Quicum, Epidice?

Ep.
Cum illa quam tuos gnatus annos multos deamat, deperit,
ubi fidemque remque seque teque properat perdere;
ea praestolabatur illum apud pórtam.

Per.
Viden veneficam?

Ep.

Sed vestita, aurata, ornata ut lepide, ut concinne, ut nove.

Per.
Quid erat induta? an regillam induculam an mendiculam?

Ep.
Inpluviatam, ut istaec faciunt vestimentis nomina.

Per.
Vtin inpluvium induta fuerit?

Ep.
Quid istuc tam mirabile est?
quasi non fundis exornatae multae incedant per vias.
at tributus quom imperatus est, negant pendi potis:
illis quibus tributus maior penditur, pendi potest.
quid istae, quae vesti quotannis nomina inveniunt nova?
tunicam rallam, tunicam spissam, linteolum caesicium,
indusiatam, patagiatam, caltulam aut crocotulam,
subparum aut subnimium, ricam, basilicum aut exoticum,
cumatile aut plumatile, carinum aut cerinum — gerrae maxumae.
cani quoque etiam ademptumst nomen.

Per.
Qui?

Ep.
Vocant Laconicum.
haec vocabula auctiones subigunt ut faciant viros.

Ap.
Quin tu ut occepisti loquere?

Ep.
Occepere aliae mulieres
duae post me sic fabulari inter sese — égo abscessi sciens
paulum ab illis, dissimulabam earum operam sermoni dare;
nec satis exaudibam, nec sermonis fallebar tamen,

quae loquerentur.

Per.
Id lubidost scire.

Ep.
Ibi illarum altera
dixit illi quicum ipsa ibat — (

Per.
Quid?

Ep.
Tace ergo, ut audias)
postquam illam sunt conspicatae, quam tuos gnatus deperit:
“quam facile et quam fortunate évenit illi, obsecro,
mulieri, quam liberare volt amator.” ‘quisnam is est?’
inquit altera illi. ibi illa nominat Stratippoclem
Periphanai filium.

Per.
Perii hercle. quid ego ex te audio?

Ep.
Hoc quod actum est. egomet postquam id illas audivi loqui,
coepi rursum vorsum ad illas pauxillatim accedere,
quasi retruderet hominum me vis invitum.

Per.
Intellego.

Ep.
Ibi illa interrogavit illam: ‘qui scis? quis id dixit tibi?’
“quin hodie adlatae tabellae sunt ad eam a Stratippocle,
eum argentum sumpsisse apud Thébas ab danista faenore,
id paratum et sese ob eam rem id ferre.”

Per.

Certo ego occidi.

Ep.
Haec sic aibat: sic audivisse ex eapse atque epistula.

Per.
Quid ego nunc faciam? consilium a te expetesso, Apoecides.

Ap.
Reperiamus aliquid calidi conducibilis consili.
nam ille quidem aut iam hic aderit, credo hercle, aut iam adest.

Ep.
Si aequom siet
me plus sapere quam vos, dederim vobis consilium catum,
quod laudetis, ut ego opino, uterque,

Per.
Ergo ubi id est, Epidice?

Ep.
Atque ad eam rem conducibile.

Ap.
Quid istuc dubitas dicere?

Ep.
Vos priores esse oportet, nos posterius dicere,
qui plus sapitis.

Per.
Eia vero, age díc.

Ep.
At deridebitis.

Ap.
Non edepol faciemus.

Ep.
Immo, si placebit, utitor,
consilium si non placebit, reperitote rectius.
mihi istic nec seritur nec metitur, nisi ea quae tu vis volo.

Per.
Gratiam habeo; fac participes nos tuae sapientiae.

Ep.
Continuo arbitretur uxor tuo gnato atque ut fidicinam
illam quam is volt liberare, quae illum corrumpit tibi,
ulciscare atque ita curetur, usque ad mortem ut serviat.

Ap.
Fieri oportet.

Per.
Facere cupio quidvis, dum id fiat modo.

Ep.
Em,
nunc occasiost faciundi, prius quam in urbem advenerit,
sicut cras hic aderit, hodie non venit.

Per.
Qui scis?

Ep.
Scio.
quia mihi alius dixit qui illinc venit, mane hic adfore.

Per.
Quin tu eloquere, quid faciemus?

Ep.
Sic faciundum censeo
quasi tu cupias liberare fidicinam animi gratia
quasique ames vehementer tu illam.

P.
Quam ad rem istuc refert?

E.
Rogas?
ut enim praestines argento, prius quam veniat filius,
atque ut eam te in libertatem dicas emere,

Per.
Intellego.

Ep.
Vbi erit empta, ut aliquo ex urbe amoveas; nisi quid est tua
secus sententia.

Per.
Immo docte.

Ep.
Quid tua autem, Apoecides?

Ap.
Quid ego iam nisi te commentum nimis astute intellego?

Ep.
Iam simul igitur amota ei erit omnis consultatio
nuptiarum, ne gravetur quod velis.

Per.
Vive sapis,
et placet.

Ep.
Tum tu igitur calide quidquid acturu's age.

Per.
Rem hercle loquere.

Ep.
Et repperi, haec te qui abscedat suspicio.

Per.
Sine me scire.

Ep.
Scibis, audi.

Ap.
Sapit hic pleno pectore.

Ep.
Opus est homine qui illo argentum deferat pro fidicina;
nam te nolo neque opus factost.

Per.
Quid iam?

Ep.
Ne te censeat
fili causa facere,

Per.
Docte.

Ep.
Quo illum ab illa prohibeas:
ne qua ob eam suspicionem difficultas evenat.

Per.
Quém hominem inveniemus ad eam rem utilem?

Ep.
Hic erit optimus,
hic poterit cavere recte, iura qui et leges tenet.

Per.

Epidico habeas gratiam.

Ep.
Sed ego istuc faciam sedulo:
ego illum conveniam atque adducam hunc ad eum quoiast fidicina,
atque argentum ego cum hoc feram.

P.
Quanti émi potest minimo?

Ep.
Illane?
ad quadraginta fortasse eam posse emi minimo minis.
verum si plus dederis, referam, nihil in ea re captiost.
atque id non decem occupatum tibi erit argentum dies.

Per.
Quidum?

Ep.
Quia enim mulierem alius illam adulescens deperit,
auro opulentus, magnus miles Rhodius, raptor hostium,
gloriosus: is emet illam de te et dabit aurum lubens.
face modo, est lucrum hic tibi amplum.

P.
Deos quidem oro.

E.
Impetras.
Ap.
Quin tu is intro atque huic argentum promis? ego visam ad forum.
Epidice, eo veni.

Ep.
Ne abitas prius quam ego ad te venero.

A.

Vsque opperiar. —

P.
Sequere tu intro. —

E.
I, numera, nil ego te moror.
nullum esse opinor ego agrum in agro Attico
aeque feracem quám hic est noster Periphanes:
quin ex occluso atque obsignato armario
decutio argenti tantum quantum mihi lubet.
quod pol ego metuo si senex resciverit,
ne ulmos parasitos faciat, quae usque attondeant.
sed me una turbat res ratioque, Apoecidi
quam ostendam fidicinam aliquam conducticiam.
atque id quoque habeo: mane me iussit senex
conducere aliquam fidicinam sibi huc domum,
quae, dum rem dinam faceret, cantaret sibi;
ea conducetur atque ei praemonstrabitur
quo pacto fiat subdola adversus senem.
ibo intro, argentum accipiam ab damnoso sene. —

ACT III.

Stratippocles
Expectando éxedor míser atque exénteror,
quó modo mi Épidici blánda dicta évenant.
nímis diu máceror: sítne quid nécne sit,
scíre cupió.

Chaeribvlvs
Per illám tibi cópiam
copíam parare aliám licet: scivi équidem in principio ilico
nullám tibi esse ín illo copiam.

Str.
Interii hércle ego.

Chaer.
Ábsurde facis qui ángas te animi; si hércle ego illum semel préndero,
númquam inridére nos íllum inultúm sinam servom hominem.

Chaer.
Quíd illum facere vís, qui, tibi quoi dívitiae domi máxumae sunt,
is númmum nullum habés neque sodáli tuo in te cópiast.

Chaer.
Si hercle hábeam, polliceár lubens, verum áliquid aliqua aliquó modo
alicúnde ab alíqui aliqua tíbi spes est fore méliorem fortúnam.

Str.
Vaé tibi, muricide homo.

Chaer.
Qui tibi lubet mihi male loqui?

Str.
Quippe tú mi aliquíd aliquo modo alicunde ab aliquibus blatis
quod nusquamst neque ego id inmitto in aures meas

nec míhi plus adiuménti †ades, quam ille quí numquam etiam nátust.

Epidicvs
Fecísti iam officium tuom, me meum nunc facere oportet.
per hanc cúram quieto tibi licet esse — hoc quidem iam periit:
ne quid tibi hinc in spem referas, oppido hoc pollinctum est;
crede modo mihi: sic ego ago, sic egerunt nostri.
pro di immortales, mihi hunc diem dedistis luculentum,
ut facilem atque impetrabilem! sed ego hinc migrare cesso,
ut importem in coloniam hunc meo auspicio commeatum?
mihi cesso, cum sto. sed quid hoc? ante aedis duo sodales,
erum et Chaéribulum, conspicor. quid hic ágitis? accipe hoc sis.

Str.
Quantum hic inest?

Ep.
Quantum sat est, et plus satis: superfit.
decem minis plus attuli quam tu danistae debes.
dum tibi ego placeam atque obsequar, meum térgum flocci facio.

Str.
Nam quid ita?

Ep.
Quia ego tuom patrem faciam parenticidam.

Str.
Quid istúc est verbi?

Ep.
Nil moror vetera et volgata verba;
peratum ductarent: ego follitum ductitabo.
nam leno omne argentum abstulit pro fidicina (ego resolvi,
manibus his denúmeravi) pater suam natam quam esse credit;
nunc iterum ut fallatur pater tibique auxilium apparetur
inveni: nam ita suasi seni atque hanc habui orationem
...

ut cum rediisses ne tibi eius copia esset.

Str.
Euge.

...

{(&7Ep&.)} ea iam domist pro filia.

Str.
Iam teneo.

Ep.
Nunc cautorem
dedit mihi ad hanc rem Apoecidem, is ápud forum manet me,
quasique amaret caveat.

Str.
Haud male.

Ep.
Iam ípse cautor captust.
ipse in meo cóllo tuos pater cruminam collocavit;
is adornat, adveniens domi extemplo ut maritus fias.

Str.
Vno persuadebit modo, si illam, quae adducta est mecum,
mi adempsit Orcus.

Ep.
Nunc ego hanc astutiam institui.
deveniam ad lenonem domum egomet solus, eum ego docebo,
si quid ad eum adveniam, ut sibi essé datum argentum dicat
pro fidicina, argenti minas se habere quinquaginta
(quippe ego qui nudiustertius meis manibus denumeravi
pro illa tua amica, quam pater suam filiam esse retur):
ibi leno sceleratum caput suom imprudens alligabit,
quasi pro illa argentum acceperit, quae tecum adducta nunc est.

Chaer.
Vorsutior es quam rota figularis.

Ep.
Iam ego parabo
aliquam dolosam fidicinam, nummo conducta quae sit,
quae se emptam simulet, quae senes duo dócte ludificetur.
eam ducet simul Apoecides ad tuom patrem.

Str.
Vt parate.

Ep.
Eam pérmeditatam, meis dolis astutiisque onustam
mittam. sed nimis longum loquor, diu me éstis demorati.
haec scitis iam ut futura sint. abeo. —

Str.
Bene ambulato.

Chaer.
Nimis dóctus ille est ad male faciendum.

Str.
Me equidem certo
servavit consiliis suis.

Chaer.
Abeamus intro hinc ad me.

Str.
Atque aliquantó lubentius quam abs te sum egressus intus;
virtute atque auspicio Epidici cum praeda in castra redeo. —

Periphanes
Non oris causa modo homines aequom fuit
sibi habere speculum, ubi os contemplarent suom,
sed qui perspicere possent cor sapientiae,

igitur perspicere ut possent cordis copiam
ubi id inspexissent, cogitarent postea,
vitam ut vixissent olim in adulescentia.
vel ego, qui dudum fili causa coeperam
ego med excruciare animi, quasi quid filius
meus déliquisset me erga aut quasi non plurima
male facta mea essent solida in adulescentia.
profecto deliramus interdum senes.
fuit conducibile hoc quidem mea sententia.
sed meus sodalis it cum praeda Apoecides.
venire salvom mercatorem gaudeo.
quid fit?

Apoecides
Di deaeque te adiuvant.

Per.
Omen placet.

Ap.
Quin omini omnes suppetunt res prospere.
sed tu hanc iubé sis intro abduci.

Per.
Heus, foras
exite huc aliquis. duce istam intro mulierem.
atque audin?

Servvs
Quid vis?

Per.
Cave siris cum filia
mea cópulari hanc neque conspicere. iam tenes?
in aediculam istanc sorsum concludi volo.
divortunt mores virgini longe ac lupae.

Ap.

Docte et sapienter dicis. † num nimis potest
pudicitiam quisquam suae servare filiae.
edepol ne ístam temperi gnato tuo
sumus praémercati.

Per.
Quid iam?

Ap.
Quia dixit mihi
iam dudum se alius tuom vidisse hic filium:
hanc edepol rem apparabat.

Per.
Planum hercle hoc quidem est.

Ap.
Ne tú habes servom graphicum et quantivis preti,
non carust auro contra. ut ille fidicinam
fecit sese ut nesciret esse emptam tibi!
ita ridibundam atque hilaram huc adduxit simul.

Per.
Mirum hoc qui potuit fieri.

Ap.
Te pro filio
facturum dixit rem esse divinam domi,
quia Thebis salvos redierit.

Per.
Rectam institit.

Ap.
Immo ipsus illi dixit conductam esse eam,
quae hic administráret ad rem divinam tibi.
facturum hoc dixit rem esse divinam tibi domi
ego illic me autem sic assimulabam: quasi

stolidum, combardum me faciebam.

Per.
Em istuc decet.

Ap.
Res magna amici apud forum agitur, ei volo
ire advocatus.

Per.
At quaeso, ubi erit otium,
revortere ad me extemplo.

Ap.
Continuo hic ero. —

Per.
Nihil homini amicost opportuno amicius:
sine tuo labore quod velis actumst tamen.
ego si allegavissem aliquem ad hoc negotium
minus hominem doctum minusque ad hanc rem callidum,
os sublitum esset, itaque me albis dentibus
meus dérideret filius meritissumo.
sed quis hic est quém ego huc advenientem conspicor,
suam qui undantem chlamydem quassando facit?

Miles
Cave praéterbitas ullas aedis, quin roges,
senex híc ubi habitat Periphanes Platenius.
incertus tuom cave ad me rettuleris pedem.

Per.
Adulescens, si istunc hominem, quem tu quaeritas,
tibi commonstrasso, ecquam abs te inibo gratiam?

Mil.
Virtute belli armatus promerui, ut mihi
omnis mortalis agere deceat gratias.

Per.
Non repperisti, adulescens, tranquillum locum,
ubi tuas virtutes explices, ut postulas.
nam strenuiori deterior si praedicat
suas pugnas, de illius illae fiunt sordidae.
sed istúm quem quaeris Periphanem Platenium,
ego sum, si quid vis.

Mil.
Nempe quem in adulescentia
memorant apud réges armis, arte duellica
divitias magnas indeptum?

Per.
Immo si audias
meas púgnas, fugias manibus dimissis domum.

Mil.
Pol égo magis unum quaero, meas cui praedicem,
quam illum qui memoret suas mihi.

Per.
Hic non est locus;
proin tu alium quaeras cui centones sarcias.
atque haec stultitiast me illi vitio vortere
egomet quod factitavi in adulescentia,
cum militabam: pugnis memorandis meis
eradicabam hominum auris, quando occeperam.

Mil.
Animum advorte, ut quod ego ad te advenio intellegas.
meam amicam audivi te esse mercatum.

Per.
Attatae,
nunc demum scio ego hunc qui sit: quem dudum Epidicus
mihi praedicavit militem. adulescens, itast
ut dicis, emi.

Mil.
Volo te verbis pauculis,
si tibi molestum non est.

Per.
Non edepol scio,
molestum necne sit, nisi dicis quid velis.

Mil.
Mi illam ut tramittas, argentum accipias: adest.
nam quid ego apud te vera parcam proloqui?
ego illám volo hodie facere libertam meam,
mihi concubina quae sit.

Per.
Te absolvam brevi:
argenti quinquaginta mi illa empta est minis;
si sexaginta mihi denumerantur minae,
tuas póssidebit mulier faxo ferias;
atque ita profecto, ut eam ex hoc exoneres agro.

Mil.
Estne empta mi istis legibus?

Per.
Habeas licet.

Mil.
Conciliavisti pulchre.

Per.
Heus, fóras educite
quam introduxistis fidicinam. atque etiam fides,
ei quae accessere, tibi addam dono gratiis.
age accipe hanc sis.

Mil.
Quae te intemperiae tenent?

quas tu mihi tenebras trudis? quin tu fidicinam
produci íntus iubes.

Per.
Haec ergo est fidicina.
hic alia nullast.

Mil.
Non mihi nugari potes.
quin tu huc producis fidicinam Acropolistidem?

Per.
Haec inquamst.

Mil.
Non haec inquamst. non novisse me
meam rere amicam posse?

Per.
Hanc, inquam, filius
meus deperibat fidicinam.

Mil.
Haec non est ea.

P.
Quid? non est?

M.
Non est.

P.
Vnde haec igitur gentiumst?
equidem hercle argentum pro hac dedi.

Mil.
Stulte datum
reor et peccatum largiter.

Per.
Immo haec east.
nam servom misi, qui illum sectari solet
meum gnátum: is ipse hanc destinavit fidicinam.

Mil.
Em istíc homo te articulatim concidit, senex,
tuos servos.

Per.
Quid? concidit?

Mil.
Sic suspiciost,
nam pro fidicina haec cerva supposita est tibi.
senex, tibi os est sublitum plane et probe.
ego illám requiram iam ubi ubi est. —

Per.
Bellator, vale.
euge, euge, Epidice, frugi es, pugnavisti, homo es,
qui me emunxisti mucidum, minimi preti.
mercatus te hodie est de lenone Apoecides?

Fidicina
Fando ego istunc hominem numquam audivi ante hunc diem,
neque me quidem emere quisquam ulla pecunia
potuit: plus iam sum libera quinquennium.

Per.
Quid tibi negotist meae domi igitur?

Fid.

Audies.
conducta veni, ut fidibus cantarem seni,
dum rem divinam faceret.

Per.
Fateor me omnium
hominum esse Athenis Atticis minimi preti.
sed tu novistin fidicinam Acropolistidem?

F.
Tam facile quam me.

P.
Vbi habitat?

F.
Postquam liberast
ubi habitet dicere admodum incerte scio.

Pe.
Eho an libera illa est? quis eam liberaverit,
volo scíre, si scis.

Fid.

Id quod audivi audies.
Stratippoclem aiunt Periphanai filium
absentem curavisse ut fieret libera.

Per.
Perii hercle, si istaec vera sunt; planissume
meum exenteravit Epidicus marsuppium.

Fid.

Haec sic audivi. numquid me vis ceterum?

Per.
Malo cruciatu ut pereas atque abeas cito.

Fid.

Fides non reddis?

Per.
Neque fides neque tibias.
propera igitur fugere hinc, si te di amant.

Fid.

Abiero.
flagitio cum maiore post reddes tamen. —

Per.
Quid nunc? qui in tantis positus sum sententiis, †
eamne egó sinam impune? immo etiam si alterum
tantum perdundumst, perdam potius quam sinam
me impune irrisum esse, habitum depeculatui
ei sic data esse verba praesenti palam!
atque mé minoris facio prae illo, qui omnium
legum atque iurum fictor, conditor cluet;
is etiam sese sapere memorat: malleum
sapientiorem vidi excusso manubrio.

ACT IV.

Philippa
Sí quid est homini míseriarum quód miserescat, míser ex animost.
íd ego expérior, cui múlta in unúm locum
cónfluont, quaé meum péctus pulsánt simul:
multiplex aerumna me exercitam habet,
paupértas, pavór territát mentem ánimi,
neque úbi meas spes cóllocem habeo úsquam munitúm locum.
ita gnáta mea hostiumst potita, neque ea nunc ubi sit scio.

Per.
Quis illaec est mulier, timido pectore peregre adveniens
quae ipsa se miseratur?

Phil.
In his dictust locis habitare mihi
Periphanes.

Per.
Me nominat haec; credo ego illi hospitio usus venit.

Phil.
Pervelim mercedem dare, qui monstret eum mihi hominem aut ubi habitet.

Per.
Noscito ego hanc, nam videor nescio ubi mi vidisse prius.
éstne ea an nón east quam animus retur meus?

Phil.
Di boni, visitavi ... antidhac?

Per.
Certo eást ... quam in Épidauro paupérculam memini cómprimere.

Phil.

Plane hícine est, qui mihi in Épidauro primús pudicitiam pépulit.

Per.
Quaé meo compréssu peperit fíliam quam dómi nunc habeo.
quíd si adeam —

Phil.
Hau scio án congrediar —

Per.
Si haéc east.

Phil.
Si is ést homo, sicut
ánni multi dúbia dant.

Per.
Lónga dies meum incértat animum. sín east quam incerte aútumo,
hánc congrediar ástu.

Phil.
Múliebris adhibenda míhi malitia nunc est.

Per.
Cómpellabo.

Phil.
Orátionis áciem contra cónferam.

Per.
Salva sis.

Phil.
Salutem accipio mi et meis.

Per.
Quid ceterum?

Phil.

Salvos sis: quod credidisti reddo.

Per.
Haud accuso fidem.
novin ego te?

Phil.
Si ego te novi, animum inducam, ut tu noveris.

Per.
Vbi te visitavi?

Phil.
Inique iniuriu's.

Per.
Quid iam?

Phil.

Quia
tuae memoriae interpretari me aequom censes.

Per.

Commode
fabulata es.

Ph.
Mira memoras.

P.
Te memini —

Ph.
Em istuc rectius.

P.
Meministin —

Ph.
Memini id quod memini.

P.
At in Epidauro —

Ph.
Ah, guttula
pectus ardens mi aspersisti.

Per.
Virgini pauperculae,
tuaeque matri me levare paupertatem?

Phil.
Tun is es,
qui per voluptatem tuam in me aerumnam obsevisti gravem?

Per.
Ego sum. salve.

Phil.
Salva sum, quia te esse salvom sentio.

Per.
35 Cedo manum.

Phil.
Accipe. aerumnosam et miseriarum compotem
mulierem retines.

Per.
Quid est quod voltus turbatust tuos?

Phil.
Filiam quam ex te suscepi —

Per.

Quid eam?

Phil.
Eductam perdidi.
hostium est potita.

Per.
Habe animum lenem et tranquillum. tace.
domi meae eccam salvam et sanam. nam postquam audivi ilico
ex meo servo, illam esse captam, continuo argentum dedi,
ut emeretur. ille eam rem ádeo sobrie et frugaliter
accuravit, utut ad alias res est impense inprobus.

Phil.
Fac videam, si mea, si salva mihi sit.

Pe.
Eho, istinc, Canthara,
iube Telestidem huc prodire filiam ante aedis meam,
ut suam videat matrem.

Phil.
Remigrat animus nunc demum mihi.

Acropolistis
Quid est, pater, quod me excivisti ante aedis?

Per.
Vt matrem tuam
videas, adeas, advenienti des salutem atque osculum.

Acr.
Quam meam matrem?

Per.
Quae exanimata exsequitur aspectum tuom.

Phil.

Quis istaec est quam tu osculum mihi ferre iubes?

Per.
Tua filia.

Phil.
Haecine?

Per.
Haec.

Phil.
Egone osculum huic dem?

Per.
Quor non, quae ex te nata sit?

Phil.
Tú homo insanis.

Per.
Egone?

Phil.
Tune.

Per.
Quor?

Phil.
Quia ego hanc quae siet
neque scio neque novi, neque ego hanc oculis vidi ante hunc diem.

Per.
Scio quid erres: quia vestitum atque ornatum immutabilem
habet haec, ...

Ph.
... aliter catuli longe olent, aliter suis.

ne ego eam novisse ...

Per.
Pro deum atque hominum fidem,
quid? ego lenocinium facio, quí habeam alienos domi
atque argentum egurgitem domo prosus? quid tu, quae patrem
tuom vocas me atque osculare, quid stas stupida? quid taces?

Acr.
Quid loquar vis?

Per.
Haec negat se tuam esse matrem.

Acr.
Ne fuat,
si non volt: equidem hac invita támen ero matris filia;
non med istanc cogere aequom est meam esse matrem, si nevolt.

Per.
Cur me igitur patrem vocabas?

Acr.
Tua istaec culpast, non mea.
non patrem ego te nominem, ubi tu tuam me appellas filiam?
hanc quoque etiam, si me appellet filiam, matrem vocem.
negat haec filiám me suam ésse: non ergo haec mater mea est.
postremo haec mea culpa non est: quae didici dixi omnia;
Epidicus mihi fuit magister.

Per.
Perii, plaustrum perculi.

Acr.
Numquid ego ibi, pater, peccavi?

Per.
Si hercle te umquam audivero

me patrem vocare, vitam tuam ego interimam.

Acr.
Non voco.
ubi voles pater esse, ibi esto; ubi noles, ne fueris pater.

Phil.
Quid, si ob eam rem hanc emisti, quia tuam gnatam es ratus,
quibus de signis agnoscebas?

Per.
Nullis.

Phil.
Qua re filiam
credidisti nostram?

Per.
Servos Epidicus dixit mihi.

Phil.
Quid si servo aliter visumst, non poteras novisse, obsecro? †

Per.
Quid ego, qui illam ut primum vidi, numquam vidi postea?

Phil.
Perii misera.

Per.
Ne fle, mulier. intro abi, habe animum bonum;
ego illam reperiam.

Phil.
Hinc Athenis civis eam émit Atticus:
adulescentem equidem dicebant emisse.

Per.

Inveniam, tace.
abi modo intro atque hanc asserva Circam Solis filiam.
ego relictis rebus Epidicum operam quaerendo dabo:
si invenio, exitiabilem égo illi faciam hunc ut fiat diem. —

ACT V.

Stratippocles
Male morigerus mi est danista, qui a me argentum non petit
neque illam adducit quae empta ex praedast. séd eccum incedit
Epidicus.
quid illuc est quod illí caperrat frons severitudine?

Epidicvs
Si undecim deos praeter sese secum adducat Iuppiter,
ita non omnes ex cruciatu poterunt eximere Epidicum.
Periphanem emere lora vidi, ibi aderat una Apoecides;
nunc homines me quaeritare credo. senserunt, sciunt
sibi data esse verba.

Str.
Quíd agis, mea commoditas?

Ep.
Quod miser.

Str.
Quid est tibi?

Ep.
Quin tu mi adornas ad fugam viaticum,
prius quam pereo? nam per urbem duo defloccati senes
quaeritant me, in manibus gestant copulas secum simul.

Str.
Habe bonum animum.

Ep.
Quippe ego quoi libertas in mundo sitast.

Str.
Ego te servabo.

Ep.
Edepol me illi melius, si nacti fuant.
sed quis haec ést muliercula et ille gravastellus qui venit?

Str.
Hic est danista, haec illa est autem, quam emi de praeda.

Ep.
Haecinest?

Str.
Haec est. estne ita ut tibi dixi? aspecta et contempla, Epidice:
usque ab unguiculo ad capillum summumst festivissuma.
estne consímilis quasi cum signum pictum pulchre aspexeris?

Ep.
Ex tuis verbis meum futurum corium pulchrum praedicas,
quém Apella atque Zeuxis duo pingent pigmentis ulmeis.

Str.
Di immortales, sicin iussi ad me ires? pedibus † pulmunes
qui perhíbetur prius venisset quam tu advenisti mihi.

Danista
Haec edepol remorata med est.

Str.
Siquidem istius gratia
id remoratu's quod ista voluit, nimium advenisti cito.

Dan.
Age age, absolve me atque argentum numera, ne comites morer.

St.
Pernumeratumst.

Da.

Tene cruminam: huc inde.

St.
Sapienter venis.
opperire, dum effero ad te argentum.

Dan.
Matura.

Str.
Domist. —

Ep.
Satin ego oculis utilitatem optineo sincere an parum?
videon ego Telestidem te, Periphanai filiam,
ex Philippa matre natam Thebis, Epidauri satam?

Telestis
Quis tu homo es, qui meum parentum nomen memoras et meum?

Ep.
Non me nosti?

Tel.
Quod quidem nunc veniat in mentem mihi.

Ep.
Non meministi me auream ad te afferre natali die
lunulam atque anellum aureolum ín digitum?

Tel.
Memini, mi homo.
tune is es?

Ep.
Ego sum, ét istic frater, qui te mercatust, tuos.
... ália matre, uno patre.

Tel.
Quid pater meus? vivit?

Ep.
Animo liquido et tranquillo es, tace.

Tel.
Di me ex perdita servatam cupiunt, si vera autumas.

Ep.
Non habeo ullam occasionem, ut apud te falsa fabuler.

Stratippocles
Accipe argentum hoc, danista. hic sunt quadraginta minae.
siquid erit dubium, immutabo.

Dan.
Bene fecisti, bene vale. —

Str.
Nunc enim tú mea es.

Tel.
Soror quidem edepol, ut tu aeque scias.
salve, frater.

Str.
Sanan haec est?

Ep.
Sana, si appellat suom.

S.
Quid? ego modo amator sum huic frater factus, dum intro eo atque exeo?

Ep.
Quod boni est id tacitus taceas tute tecum et gaudeas.

Str.
Perdidisti et repperisti me, soror.

Ep.
Stultu's, tace.
tibi quidem quod ames domi praéstost, fidicina, opera mea;
et sororem in libertatem idem opera concilio mea.

Str.
Epidice, fateor —

Ep.
Abi intro ac iúbe huic aquam calefieri;
cetera haec posterius faxo scibis, ubi erit otium.

Str.
Sequere hac me, soror.

Ep.
Ego ad vos Thesprionem iussero
huc transire. sed memento, si quid saevibunt senes,
suppetias mihi cum sorore ferre.

Str.
Facile istuc erit. —

Ep.
Thesprio, exi istac per hortum, adfer domum auxilium mihi,
magnast res. minoris multo facio quam dudum senes.
remeabo intro, ut accurentur advenientes hospites.
eádem haec intus edocebo quae ego scio Stratippoclem.
non fugio, domi adesse certumst; neque ille haud obiciet mihi
pedibus sese provocatum. abeo intro, nimis longum loquor. —

Periphanes
Satine illic homo ludibrio nos vetulos decrepitos duos
habet?

Apoecides
Immo edepol tu quidem míserum med habes miseris modis.

Per.
Tace sis, modo sine me hóminem apisci.

Ap.
Dico ego tibi iam, ut scias:
alium tibi te comitem meliust quaerere; ita, dum te sequor,
lassitudine invaserunt misero in genua flemina.

Per.
Quot illic homo hodie me exemplis ludificatust atque te,
ut illic autem exenteravit mihi opes argentarias!

Ap.
Apage illum a me, nam ille quidem Volcani iratist filius:
quaqua tangit, omne amburit, si astes, aestu calefacit.

Epidicvs
Duodecim deis plus quam in caelo deorumst immortalium
mihi nunc auxilio adiutores sunt et mecum militant.
quidquid ego malefeci, auxilia mi et suppetiae sunt domi,
apolactizo inimicos omnis.

Per.
Vbi illum quaeram gentium?

Ap.
Dum sine me quaeras, quaeras mea causa vel medio in mari.

Ep.
Quid me quaeris? quid laboras? quid hunc sollicitas? ecce me.
num te fugi, num ab domo apsum, num oculis concessi tuis?

...

nec tibi supplico. vincire vis? em, ostendo manus;

tú habes lora, ego te emere vidi: quid nunc cessas? colliga.

Per.
Ilicet, vadimonium ultro mi hic facit.

Ep.
Quin colligas?

Ap.
Edepol mancipium scelestum.

Ep.
Te profecto, Apoecides,
nil moror mihi deprecari.

Ap.
Facile exoras, Epidice.

Ep.
Ecquid agis?

Per.
Tuon arbitratu?

Ep.
Meo hercle vero atque hau tuo
colligandae haec sunt tibi hodie.

Per.
At non lubet, non colligo.

Ap.
Tragulam in te inicere adornat, nescio quam fabricam facit.

Ep.
Tibi moram facis, cum égo solutus asto. age, inquam, colliga.

Per.
At mihi magis lubet solutum te rogitare.

Ep.
At nil scies.

Per.
Quid ago?

Ap.
Quid agas? mos geratur.

Ep.
Frugi es tú homo, Apoecides.

Per.
Cedo manus igitur.

Ep.
Morantur nihil. atque arte colliga.

Per.
Nihil moror.

Ep.
Obnoxiose.

Per.
Facto opere arbitramino.

Ep.
Bene hoc habet. age nunciam ex me exquire, rogita quod lubet.

Per.
Qua fiducia ausu's primum, quae emptast nudiustertius,
filiam meam dicere esse?

Ep.
Libuit: ea fiducia.

Per.
Ain tu? libuit?

Ep.
Aio. vel da pignus, ni ea sit filia.

Per.
Quam negat novisse mater?

Ep.
Ni ergo matris filia est,
in meum nummum, in tuom talentum pignus da.

Per.
Enim istaec captiost.
sed quis east mulier?

Ep.
Tui gnati amica, ut omnem rem scias.

Per.
Dedin tibi minas triginta ob filiam?

Ep.
Fateor datas
et eo argento illam me emisse amicam fili fidicinam
pro tua filia: is te eam ob rem tetigi triginta minis.

Per.
Quo modo mé ludos fecisti de illa conducticia
fidicina?

Ep.
Factum hercle vero, et recte factum iudico.

Per.
Quid postremo argento factum est quod dedi?

Ep.
Dicam tibi:
neque malo homini neque maligno tuo dedi Stratippocli.

Per.
Quor dare ausu's?

Ep.
Quia mi libitum est.

Per.
Quae haec, malum, impudentiast?

Ep.
Etiam inclamitor quasi servos?

Per.
Cum tu es liber, gaudeo.

Ep.
Merui ut fierem.

Per.
Tu meruisti?

Ep.
Vise intro: ego faxo scies
hoc ita esse.

Per.
Quid est negoti?

Ep.
Iam ipsa res dicet tibi.
abi modo intro.

Ap.
Ei, non illuc temerest.

Per.
Adserva istum, Apoecides. —

Ap.

Quid illuc, Epidice, est negoti?

Ep.
Maxima hercle iniuria
vinctus asto, cuius haec hodie ópera inventast filia.

Ap.
Ain tu te illius invenisse filiam?

Ep.
Inveni, et domi est.
sed ut acerbum est, pro bene factis cum mali messim metas.

Ap.
Quamne hodie per urbem uterque sumus defessi quaerere?

Ep.
Ego sum defessus reperire, vos defessi quaerere.

Per.
Quid isti oratis opere tanto? mi orandum esse intellego,
ut liceat merito huius facere. cedo tu ut exsolvam manus.

Ep.
Ne attigas.

Per.
Ostende vero.

Ep.
Nolo.

Per.
Non aequom facis.

Ep.
Numquam hercle hodie, nisi supplicium mihi das, me solvi sinam.

Per.

Optumum atque aequissumum oras. soccos, tunicam, pallium tibi dabo.

Ep.
Quid deinde porro?

Per.
Libertatem.

Ep.
At postea?
novo liberto opus est quod pappet.

Per.
Dabitur, praebebo cibum.

Ep.
Numquam hercle hodie, nisi me orassis, solves.

Per.
Oro te, Epidice,
mihi ut ignoscas, siquid imprúdens culpa peccavi mea.
at ob eam rem liber esto.

Ep.
Invitus do hanc veniam tibi,
nisi necessitate cogar. solve sane, si lubet.

Poeta
Hic is homo est qui libertatem malitia invenit sua.
plaudite et valete. lumbos porgite atque exsurgite.

MENAECHMI

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PROLOGVS

Salutem primum iam a principio propitiam
mihi atque vobis, spectatores, nuntio.
apporto vobis Plautum, lingua non manu,
quaeso ut benignis accipiatis auribus.
nunc argumentum accipite atque animum advortite;
quam potero in verba conferam paucissuma.
atque hoc poetae faciunt in comoediis:
omnis res gestas esse Athenis autumant,
quo íllud vobis graecum videatur magis;
ego nusquam dicam nisi ubi factum dicitur.
atque adeo hoc argumentum graecissat, tamen
non atticissat, verum sicilicissitat.
huic argumento antelogium hoc fuit;
nunc argumentum vobis demensum dabo,
non modio, neque trimodio, verum ipso horreo:
tantum ad narrandum argumentum ádest benignitas.
mercator quidam fuit Syracusis senex,
eí sunt nati filii gemini duo,
ita forma simili pueri, út mater sua
non internosse posset quae mammam dabat,
neque adeo mater ipsa quae illos pepererat,
ut quidem ille dixit mihi, qui pueros viderat:
ego illós non vidi, ne quis vostrum censeat.
postquam iam pueri septuennes sunt, pater
oneravit navem magnam multis mercibus;
imponit geminum álterum in navem pater,
Tarentum avexit secum ad mercatum simul,
illum reliquit alterum ápud matrem domi.
Tarenti ludi forte erant, cum illuc venit.
mortales multi, ut ad ludos, convenerant:
puér aberravit inter homines a patre.
Epidamniensis quidam ibi mercator fuit,
is puerum tollit avehitque Epidamnium.
pater eius autem postquam puerum perdidit,

animum despondit, eaque is aegritudine
paucis diebus post Tarenti emortuost.
postquam Syracusas de ea re rediit nuntius
ad avom puerorum, puerum surruptum alterum
patremque pueri Tarenti esse emortuom,
immutat nomen avos huic gemino alteri;
ita illum dilexit, qui subruptust, alterum:
illius nomen indit illi qui domi est,
Menaechmo, idem quod alteri nomen fuit;
et ipsus eodem est avos vocatus nomine
(propterea illius nomen memini facilius,
quia illúm clamore vidi flagitarier).
ne mox erretis, iam nunc praedico prius:
idem est ambobus nomen geminis fratribus.
nunc in Epidamnum pedibus redeundum est mihi,
ut hanc rem vobis examussim disputem.
si quis quid vestrum Epidamnum curari sibi
velit, audacter imperato et dicito,
sed ita ut det unde curari id possit sibi.
nam nisi qui argentum dederit, nugas egerit;
qui dederit, magis maiores nugas egerit.
verum illuc redeo unde abii, atque uno asto in loco.
Epidamniensis ille, quem dúdum dixeram,
geminum illum puerum qui surrupuit alterum,
ei liberorum, nisi divitiae, nil erat:
adoptat illum puerum surrupticium
sibi filium eique uxorem dotatam dedit,
eumque heredem fecit, quom ipse obiit diem.
nam rus ut ibat forte, ut multum pluerat,
ingressus fluvium rapidum ab urbe haud longule,
rapidus raptori pueri subduxit pedes
abstraxitque hominem in maximam malam crucem.
illi divitiae evenerunt maximae.
is illic habitat geminus surrupticius.
nunc ille geminus, qui Syracusis habet,
hodie in Epidamnum veniet cum servo suo
hunc quaeritatum geminum germanum suom.

haec urbs Epidamnus est, dum haec agitur fabula:
quando alia agetur, aliud fiet oppidum;
sicut familiae quoque solent mutarier:
modo †ni caditat leno, modo adulescens, modo senex,
pauper, mendicus, rex, parasitus, hariolus

ACT I.

Penicvlvs
Iuventus nomen fecit Peniculo mihi,
ideo quia mensam, quando edo, detergeo.
homines captivos qui catenis vinciunt
et qui fugitivis servis indunt compedes,
nimis stúlte faciunt mea quidem sententia.
nam homini misero si ad malum accedit malum,
maior lubido est fugere et facere nequiter.
nam se ex catenis eximunt aliquo modo.
tum compediti ánum lima praeterunt
aut lapide excutiunt clavom. nugae sunt eae.
quem tu adservare recte, ne aufugiat, voles,
esca atque potione vinciri decet.
apud ménsam plenam homini rostrum deliges;
dum tu illi quod edit et quod potet praebeas,
suo arbitratu ádfatim cottidie,
numquam edepol fugiet, tam etsi capital fecerit,
facile adservabis, dúm eo vinclo vincies.
ita istaéc nimis lenta vincla sunt escaria:
quam magis extendas, tanto adstringunt artius.
nam ego ad Menaechmum húnc eo, quo iam diu
sum iudicatus; ultro eo ut me vinciat.
nam illic homo homines non alit, verum educat,
recreatque: nullus melius medicinam facit.
ita est adulescens; ipsus escae maxumae
cerialis cenas dat, ita mensas exstruit,
tantas struices concinnat patinarias:
standumst in lecto, si quid de summo petas.
sed mi intervallum iam hos dies multos fuit:
domi domítus sum usque cum caris meis.
nam neque edo neque emo nisi quod est carissumum.
id quoque iam, cari qui instruontur deserunt.
nunc ad eum inviso. sed aperitur ostium.
Menaechmum eccum ipsum video, progreditur foras.

Menaechmvs
Ní mala, ni stúlta sies, ni índomita impósque animi,
quód viro esse odió videas, túte tibi odio habeas.
praéterhac sí mihi tále post húnc diem
fáxis, faxó foris vídua visás patrem.
nám quotiens foras íre volo, mé retines, revocás, rogitas,
quó ego eam, quám rem agam, quíd negotí geram,
quíd petam, quid feram, quíd foris egerim.
portitorem domum duxi, ita omnem mihi
rem necesse eloqui est, quidquid egi atque ago.
nímium ego te habui délicatam; núnc adeo ut factúrus dicam.
quando égo tibi ancillás, penum,
lanam, aurum, vestem, purpuram
bene praebeo nec quicquam eges,
malo cavebis si sapis,
virum observare desines.
átque adeo, ne me nequiquam serves, ob eam industriam
hodie ducam scortum ad cenam atque aliquo condicam foras.

Pen.
Illic homo se uxori simulat male loqui, loquitur mihi;
nam si foris cenat, profecto me, haud uxorem, ulciscitur.

Men.
Euax, iurgio hercle tandem uxorem abegi ab ianua.
ubi súnt amatores mariti? dona quid cessant mihi
conférre omnes congratulantes, quia pugnavi fortiter?
hánc modo uxori intus pallam surrupui, ad scortum fero.
sic hóc decet, dari facete verba custodi catae.
hoc fácinus pulchrumst, hoc probumst, hoc lepidumst, hoc factumst fabre:
meó malo a mala abstuli hoc, ad damnum deferetur.
avórti praedam ab hostibus nostrum salute socium.

Pen.
Heús adulescens, ecqua in istac pars inest praeda mihi?

Men.
Perii, in insidias deveni.

Pen.
Immo in praesidium, ne time.

M.
Quis homo est?

P.
Ego sum.

M.
O mea Commoditas, o mea Opportunitas,
salve.

P.
Salve.

M.
Quid agis?

P.
Teneo dextera genium meum.

Men.
Non potuisti magis per tempus mi advenire quam advenis.

Pen.
Ita ego soleo: commoditatis omnis articulos scio.

Men.
Vin tu facinus luculentum inspicere?

Pen.
Quis id coxit coquos?
iam sciam, si quid titubatumst, ubi reliquias videro.

Men.

Dic mi, enumquam tu vidisti tabulam pictam in pariete,
ubi aquila Catameitum raperet aut ubi Venus Adoneum?

Pen.
Saepe. sed quid istaé picturae ad me attinent?

Men.
Age me aspice.
ecquid adsimulo similiter?

Pen.
Quis istest ornatus tuos?

Men.
Dic hominem lepidissimum esse me.

Pen.
Vbi essuri sumus?

Men.
Dic modo hoc quod ego te iubeo.

Pen.
Dico: homo lepidissime.

Men.
Ecquid audes de tuo istuc addere?

Pen.
Atque hilarissime.

Men.
Perge porro.

Pen.
Non pergo hercle, nisi scio qua gratia.
litigium tibi est cum uxore, eo mi ábs te caveo cautius.

Men.

Clam uxoremst ubi pulchre habeamus atque hunc comburamus diem.

Pen.
Age sane igitur, quando aequom oras, quam mox incendo rogum? dies quidem iam ad umbilicum est dimidiatus mortuos.

Men.
Te morare, mihi quom obloquere.

Pen.
Oculum ecfodito per solum
mihi, Menaechme, si ullum verbum faxo nisi quod iusseris.

Men.
Concede huc a foribus.

Pen.
Fiat.

Men.
Etiam concede huc.

Pen.
Licet.

Men.
Etiam nunc concede audacter ab leonino cavo.

Pen.
Eu edepol ne tu, ut ego opinor, esses agitator probus.

Men.
Quidum?

Pen.
Ne te uxor sequatur, respectas identidem.

Men.

Sed quid ais?

Pen.
Egone? id enim quod tu vis, id aio atque id nego.

Men.
Ecquid tu de odore possis, si quid forte olfeceris,
facere coniecturam

*?

*
(Pen.)

*captum sit collegium.

Men.
Agedum odorare hanc quam ego habeo pallam. quid olet? apstines?

Pen.
Summum ólfactare oportet vestimentum muliebre,
nam ex istoc loco spurcatur nasum odore † inlucido.

Men.
Olfacta igitur hinc, Penicule. lepide ut fastidis.

Pen.
Decet.

Men.
Quid igitur? quid olet? responde.

Pen.
Furtum, scortum, prandium.
tibi fuant
elocutus, nam
nunc ad amicam deferetur hanc meretricem Erotium.
mihi, tibi atque illi iubebo iam adparari prandium.

Pen.
Eu.

Men.
Inde usque ad diurnam stellam crastinam potabimus.

Pen.
Eu,
expedite fabulatu's. iam fores ferio?

Men.
Feri.
vel mane etiam.

Pen.
Mille passum commoratu's cantharum.

Men.
Placide pulta.

Pen.
Metuis, credo, ne fores Samiae sient.

Men.
Mane, mane obsecro hercle: eapse eccam exit. oh, solem vides
satin ut occaecatust prae huius corporis candoribus?

Erotivm
Anime mi, Menaechme, salve.

Pen.
Quid ego?

Er.
Extra numerum es mihi.

Pen.
Idem istuc aliis adscriptivis fieri ad legionem solet.

Men.
Ego istic mihi hodie adparari iussi apud te proelium.

Er.
Hodie id fiet.

Men.
In eo uterque proelio potabimus;
uter ibi melior bellator erit inventus cantharo,
† tuest legio adiudicato, cum utro hanc noctem sies.
ut ego uxorem, mea voluptas, ubi te aspicio, odi male.

Er.
Interim nequis quin eius aliquid indutus sies.
quid hoc est?

Men.
Induviae tuae atque uxoris exuviae, rosa.

Er.
Superas facile, ut superior sis mihi quam quisquam qui impetrant.

Pen.
Meretrix tantisper blanditur, dum illud quod rapiat videt;
nam si amabas, iám oportebat nasum abreptum mordicus.

Men.
Sustine hoc, Penicule: exuvias facere quas vovi volo.

Pen.
Cedo; sed obsecro hercle, salta sic cum palla postea.

Men.
Ego saltabo? sanus hercle non es.

Pen.
Egone an tu magis?
si non saltas, exue igitur.

Men.
Nimio ego hanc periculo
surrupui hodie. meo quidem animo ab Hippolyta subcingulum
Hercules haud aeque magno umquam abstulit periculo.
cape tibi hanc, quando una vivis meis morigera moribus.

Er.
Hoc animo decet animatos esse amatores probos.

Pen.
Qui quidem ad mendicitatem se properent detrudere.

Men.
Quattuor minis ego emi istanc anno uxori meae.

Pen.
Quattuor minae perierunt plane, ut ratio redditur.

Men.
Scin quid volo ego te accurare?

Er.
Scio, curabo quae voles.

Men.
Iube igitur tribus nóbis apud te prandium accurarier
atque aliquid scitamentorum de foro opsonarier,
glandionidam suillam, laridum pernonidam,
aut sincipitamenta porcina aut aliquid ad eum modum,
madida quae mi adposita in mensa miluinam suggerant;
atque actutum.

Er.
Licet ecastor.

Men.
Nos prodimus ad forum.
iam hic nos erimus: dum coquetur, interim potabimus.

Er.
Quando vis veni, parata res erit.

Men.
Propera modo.
sequere tu. —

Pen.
Ego hercle vero te et servabo et te sequar,
neque hodie ut te perdam, meream deorum divitias mihi. —

Er.
Evocate intus Culindrum mihi coquom actutum foras.
sportulam cape atque argentum. eccos tris nummos habes.

Cylindrvs

Habeo.
Er.
Abi atque obsonium adfer; tribus vide quod sit satis:
neque defiat neque supersit.

Cyl.
Cuius modi hí homines erunt?

Er.
Ego et Menaechmus et parasitus eius.

Cyl.
Iam isti sunt decem;
nam parasitus octo hominum munus facile fungitur.

Er.
Elocuta sum convivas, ceterum cura.

Cyl.
Licet.
cocta sunt, iube ire accubitum.

Er.
Redi cito.

Cyl.
Iam ego hic ero. —

ACT II.

Menaechmvs
Voluptas nullast navitis, Messenio,
maior meo animo, quam quom ex alto procul
terram conspiciunt.

Messenio
Maior, non dicam dolo,
quam si adveniens terram videas quae fuerit tua.
sed quaeso, quam ob rem nunc Epidamnum venimus?
an quasi mare omnis circumimus insulas?

Men.
Fratrem quaesitum geminum germanum meum.

Mess.
Nam quid modi futurum est illum quaerere?
hic annus sextust postquam ei reí operam damus.
Histros, Hispanos, Massiliensis, Hilurios,
mare superum omne Graeciamque exoticam
orasque Italicas omnis, qua adgreditur mare,
sumus círcumvecti. sí acum, credo, quaereres,
acum invenisses, si appareret, iam diu.
hominem inter vivos quaeritamus mortuom;
nam invenissemus iam diu, si viveret.

Men.
Ergo istuc quaero certum qui faciat mihi,
qui sese dicat scire eum esse emortuom:
operam praeterea numquam sumam quaerere.
verum aliter vivos numquam desistam exsequi.
ego illúm scio quam cordi sit carus meo.

Mess.
In scirpo nodum quaeris. quin nos hinc domum
redimus, nisi si historiam scripturi sumus?

Men.
Dictum facessas, datum edis, caveas malo.
molestus ne sis, non tuo hoc fiet modo.

Mess.

Em
illoc enim vérbo esse me servom scio.
non potuit paucis plura plane proloqui.
verum tamen néqueo contineri quin loquar.
audin, Menaechme? quom inspicio marsuppium,
viaticati hercle admodum aestive sumus.
ne tu hercle, opinor, nisi domum revorteris,
ubi nihil habebis, geminum dum quaeres, gemes.
nam ita est haec hominum natio: in Epidamnieis
voluptárii atque potatores maxumi;
tum sycophantae et palpatores plurumi
in urbe hac habitant; tum meretrices mulieres
nusquam perhibentur blandiores gentium.
propterea huic urbi nomen Epidamno inditumst,
quia nemo ferme huc sine damno devortitur.

Men.
Ego istúc cavebo. cedo dum huc mihi marsuppium.

Mess.
Quid eo vis?

Men.
Iam aps te metuo de verbis tuis.

Mess.
Quid metuis?

Men.
Ne mihi damnum in Epidamno duis.
tu magnus amator mulierum es, Messenio,
ego autem homo iracundus, animi perditi;

id utrumque, argentum quando habebo, cavero,
ne tu delinquas neve ego irascar tibi.

Mess.
Cape atque serva. me lubente feceris.

Cylindrvs
Bene opsonavi atque ex mea sententia,
bonum anteponam prandium pransoribus.
sed eccúm Menaechmum video. vae tergo meo,
prius iám convivae ambulant ante ostium,
quam ego opsonatu redeo. adibo atque alloquar.
Menaechme, salve.

Men.
Di te amabunt quisquis es.

Cyl.
Quisquis ... quis ego sim?

Men.
Non hercle vero.

Cyl.
Vbi convivae ceteri?

Men.
Quos tu convivas quaeris?

Cyl.
Parasitum tuom.

Men.
Meum parasitum? certe hic insanust homo.

Mess.
Dixin tibi esse hic sycophantas plurumos?

...

Men.
Quem tu parasitum quaeris, adulescens, meum?

Mess.
Peniculum éccum in vidulo salvom fero.

Cyl.
Menaechme, numero huc advenis ad prandium.
nunc opsonatu redeo.

Men.
Responde mihi,
adulescens: quibus hic pretiis porci veneunt
sacres sinceri?

Cyl.
Nummis.

Men.
Nummum a me accipe:
iube té piari de mea pecunia.
nam équidem insanum esse te certo scio,
qui mihi molestu's homini ignoto, quisquis es.

Cyl.
Cylindrus ego sum: non nosti nomen meum?

Men.
Si tu Cylindrus seu Coriendrus, perieris.
ego te non novi, neque novisse adeo volo.

Cyl.
Est tibi Menaechmo nomen, tantum quod sciam.

Men.
Pro sano loqueris quom me appellas nomine.

sed ubi novisti me?

Cyl.
Vbi ego te noverim,
qui amicam habes eram meam hanc Erotium?

Men.
Neque hercle ego habeo, neque te quis homo sis scio.

Cyl.
Non scis quis ego sim, qui tibi saepissime
cyathisso apud nos, quando potas?

Mess.
Ei mihi,
quom nihil est qui illi homini diminuam caput.

Men.
Tun cyathissare mihi soles, qui ante hunc diem
Epidamnum numquam vidi neque veni?

Cyl.
Negas?

Men.
Nego hercle vero.

Cyl.
Non tu in illisce aedibus
† habitas?

Men.
Di illos homines, qui illic habitant, perduint.

Cyl.
Insanit hic quidem, qui ipse male dicit sibi.
audin, Menaechme?

Men.
Quid vis?

Cyl.
Si me consulas,
nummum illum quem mihi dudum pollicitu's dare —
nam tu quidem hercle certo non sanu's satis,
Menaechme, qui nunc ipsus male dicas tibi —
iubeas, si sapias, porculum adferri tibi.

Mes.
Eu hercle hominem multum, et odiosum mihi.

Cyl.
Solet iocari saepe mecum illoc modo.
quam vis ridiculus est, ubi uxor non adest.
quid ais tu?

Men.
Quid vis, inquam.

Cyl.
Satin hoc quod vides
tribus vóbis opsonatumst, an opsono amplius,
tibi et parasito et mulieri?

Men.
Quas tu mulieres,
quos tu parasitos loquere?

Mess.
Quod te urget scelus,
qui huic sis molestus?

Cyl.
Quid tibi mecum est rei?
ego te non novi: cum hoc quem novi fabulor.

Mess.
Non edepol tú homo sanus es, certo scio.

Cyl.
Iam ergo haec madebunt faxo, nil morabitur.
proin tu ne quo abeas longius ab aedibus.
numquid vis?

Men.
Vt eas maximam malam crucem.

Cyl.
Ire hercle meliust te interim atque accumbere,
dum ego haec appono ad Volcani violentiam.
ibo intro et dicam te hic adstare Erotio,
ut te hinc abducat potius quam hic adstes foris. —

Men.
Iamne abiit illic? edepol haud mendacia
tua verba experior esse.

Mess.
Observato modo:
nam istic meretricem credo habitare mulierem,
ut quidem ille insanus dixit, qui hinc abiit modo.

Men.
Sed miror qui ille noverit nomen meum.

Mess.
Minime hercle mirum. morem hunc meretrices habent:
ad portum mittunt servolos, ancillulas;
si quae peregrina navis in portum advenit,
rogitant cuiatis sit, quid ei nomen siet,
postilla extemplo se applicant, agglutinant:
si pellexerunt, perditum amittunt domum.
nunc ín istoc portu stát navis praedatoria,
aps qua cavendum nobis sane censeo.

Men.
Mones quidem hercle recte.

Mess.
Tum demum sciam
recte monuisse, si tu recte caveris.

Men.
Tace dúm parumper, nam concrepuit ostium:
videamus qui hinc egreditur.

Mess.
Hoc ponam interim.
asservatote haec sultis, navales pedes.

Erotivm
Sine fóres sic, abi, nolo óperiri.
intús para, curá, vide, quod opúst fiat:
sterníte lectos, incéndite odores; múnditia
inlécebra animost amántium.
amánti amoenitás malost, nobís lucrost.
sed ubi ílle est, quem coquos ánte aedis esse áit? atque eccum video,
qui mi ést usui et plurímum prodest.
item hinc últro fit, ut méret, potissimus nostraé domi ut sit;
nunc éum adibo, adloquar ultro.
animúle mi, mihi mirá videntur,
te hic stáre foris, fores quoí pateant,
magis quám domus tua domus quom haéc tua sit.
omné paratumst, ut iússisti
atque út voluisti, néque tibi
ullá morast intus.
prandium, út iussisti, hic cúratumst:
ubi lúbet, ire licet áccubitum.

M.
Quícum haec mulier loquitur?

E.

Equidem tecum.

M.
Quid mecum tibi
fuit umquam aut nunc est negoti?

Er.
Quia pol te unum ex omnibus
Venus me voluit magnificare, neque id haud immerito tuo.
nam ecastor solus benefactis tuis me florentem facis.

Men.
Certo haec mulier aut insana aut ebria est, Messenio,
quaé hominem ignotum compellet me tam familiariter.

Mess.
Dixin égo istaec hic solere fieri? folia nunc cadunt,
praeut si triduom hoc hic erimus: tum arbores in te cadent.
nam ita sunt hic meretrices: omnes elecebrae argentariae.
sed sine me dum hanc compellare. heus mulier, tibi dico.

Er.
Quid est?

Mess.
Vbi tu húnc hominem novisti?

Er.
Ibidem ubi hic me iam diu,
in Epidamno.

Mess.
In Epidamno? qui huc in hanc urbem pedem,
nisi hodie, numquam intro tetulit?

Er.
Heia, delicias facis.
mi Menaechme, quin, amabo, is intro? hic tibi erit rectius.

Men.
Haec quidem edepol recte appellat meo me mulier nomine.
nimis miror, quid hoc sít negoti.

Mess.
Oboluit marsuppium
huic istuc quod habes.

Men.
Atque edepol tu me monuisti probe.
accipe dum hoc. iam scibo, utrum haec me mage amet an marsuppium.

Er.
Eamus intro, ut prandeamus.

Men.
Bene vocas: tam gratiast.

Er.
Cur igitur me tibi iussisti coquere dudum prandium?

Men.
Egon te iussi coquere?

Er.
Certo, tibi et parasito tuo.

Men.
Cui, malum, parasito? certo haec mulier non sanast satis.

Er.
Peniculo.

Men.
Quis isteést Peniculus? qui extergentur baxeae?

Er.

Scilicet qui dudum tecum venit, quom pallam mihi
detulisti, quám ab uxore tua surrupuisti.

Men.
Quid est?
tibi pallam dedi, quam uxori meae surrupui? sanan es?
certe haec mulier cantherino ritu ástans somniat.

Er.
Qui lubet ludibrio habere me atque ire infitias mihi
facta quae sunt?

Men.
Dic quid est id quod negem quod fecerim?

Er.
Pallam te hodie mihi dedisse uxoris.

Men.
Etiam nunc nego.
ego quidem neque umquam uxorem hábui neque habeo, neque huc
umquam, postquam natus sum, intra portam penetravi pedem.
prandi in navi, inde huc sum egressus, te conveni.

Er.
Eccere,
perii misera, quam tu mihi nunc navem narras?

Men.
Ligneam,
saepe tritam, saepe fixam, saepe excussam malleo;
quasi supellex pellionis, palus palo proxumust.

Er.
Iám, amabo, desiste ludos facere atque i hac mecum semul.

Men.
Nescio quem, mulier, alium hóminem, non me quaeritas.

Er.
Non ego te novi Menaechmum, Moscho prognatum patre,
qui Syracusis perhibere natus esse in Sicilia,
ubi rex Agathocles regnator fuit et iterum Phintia,
tertium Liparo, qui in morte regnum Hieroni tradidit,
nunc Hiero est?

Men.
Haud falsa, mulier, praedicas.

Mess.
Pro Iuppiter,
num istaec mulier illinc venit, quae te novit tam cate?

Men.
Hercle opinor, pernegari non potest.

Mess.
Ne feceris.
periisti, si intrassis intra limen.

Men.
Quin tu tace modo.
bene res geritur. adsentabor quidquid dicet mulieri,
si possum hospitium nancisci. iam dudum, mulier, tibi
non imprudens advorsabar: hunc metuebam, ne meae
uxori renuntiaret de palla et de prandio.
nunc, quando vis, eamus intro.

Er.
Etiam parasitum manes?

Men.
Neque ego illum maneo, neque flocci facio, neque, si venerit,
eum volo intromitti.

Er.
Ecastor haud invita fecero.

sed scin quid te amabo ut facias?

Men.
Impera quid vis modo.

Er.
Pallam illam, quam dudum dederas, ad phrygionem ut deferas,
ut reconcinnetur atque ut opera addantur quae volo.

Men.
Hercle qui tu recte dicis: eádem ignorabitur,
ne uxor cognoscat te habere, si in via conspexerit.

Er.
Ergo mox auferto tecum, quando abibis.

Men.
Maxime.

Er.
Eamus intro

Men.
Iam sequar te. húnc volo etiam conloqui.
eho Messenio, accede huc.

Mess.
Quid negoti est?

Men.
†sussciri.

M.
Quid eo opust?

M.
Opus est. scio ut me dices.

M.

Tanto nequior.

Men.
Habeo praedam: tantum incepi óperis. ei quantum potes,
abduc istos in tabernam actutum devorsoriam.
tum facito ante solem occasum ut venias advorsum mihi.

Mess.
Non tu istas meretrices novisti, ere.

Men.
Tace, inquam ...
mihi dolebit, non tibi, si quid ego stulte fecero.
mulier haec stulta atque inscita est; quantum perspexi modo,
est hic praeda nobis. —

Mess.
Perii, iamne abis? periit probe:
ducit lembum dierectum navis praedatoria.
sed ego inscitus qui domino me postulem moderarier:
dicto me emit audientem, haud imperatorem sibi.
sequimini, ut, quod imperatum est, veniam advorsum temperi. —

ACT III.

Penicvlvs
Plus triginta ánnis natus sum, quom ínterea loci,
numquam quicquam facinus feci peius neque scelestius,
quám hodie, quom in contionem mediam me immersi miser.
ubi ego dúm hieto, Menaechmus se subterduxit mihi
atque abiit ad amicam, credo, neque me voluit ducere.
qui illum di omnes perduint, qui primus commentust ...
contionem habere, qui homines occupatos occupat.
non ad eam rem ótiosos homines decuit deligi,
qui nisi adsint quom citentur, census capiat ilico?
...

...

adfatim est hominum, in dies qui singulas escas edint,
quibus negoti nihil est, qui essum neque vocantur neque vocant:
eos oportet contioni dare operam atque comitiis.
sí id ita esset, non ego hodie perdidissem prandium,
quoi tam credo † datum voluisse quam me video vivere.
ibo: etiamnum reliquiarum spes animum oblectat meum.
sed quid ego video? Menaechmus cum corona exit foras.
sublatum est convivium, edepol venio adversum temperi.
observabo, quid agat, hominem. post adibo atque adloquar.

Menaechmvs
Potine ut quiescas? ego tibi hanc hodie probe
lepideque concinnatam referam temperi.
non faxo eam esse dices: íta ignorabitur.

Pen.
Pallam ad phrygionem fert confecto prandio
vinoque expoto, parasito excluso foras.
non hercle is sum qui sum, ni hánc iniuriam
meque ultus pulchre fuero. observa quid dabo.

Men.
Pro di immortales, quoí homini umquam uno die
boni dedistis plus, qui minus speraverit?
prandi, potavi, scortum accubui, apstuli
hanc, quoius heres numquam erit post hunc diem.

Pen.
Nequeo quae loquitur exaudire clanculum;
satur nunc loquitur de me et de parti mea.

Men.
Ait hanc dedisse me sibí, atque eam meae
uxori surrupuisse. quoniam sentio
errare, extemplo, quasi res cúm ea esset mihi,
coepi adsentari: mulier quidquid dixerat,
idem ego dicebam. quid multis verbis opust?
minore nusquam bene fui dispendio.

Pen.
Adibo ad hominem, nam turbare gestio.

Men.
Quis hic ést, qui adversus it mihi?

Pen.
Quid ais, homo
levior quam pluma, pessime et nequissime,
flagitium hominis, subdole ac minimi preti?
quid de te merui, qua me causa perderes?
ut surrupuisti te mihi dudum de foro!
fecisti funus med absente prandio.
cur ausu's facere, quoi ego aeque heres eram?

Men.
Adulescens, quaeso, quid tibi mecum est rei,
qui mihi male dicas homini ignoto insciens?
an tibi malam rem vis pro male dictis dari?

Pen.
†Pol eam quidem edepol te dedisse intellego.

Men.
Responde, adulescens, quaeso, quid nomen tibist?

Pen.
Etiam derides, quasi nomen non noveris?

Men.
Non edepol ego te, quod sciam, umquam ante hunc diem
vidi neque novi; verum certo, quisquis es,
si aéquom facias, mihi odiosus ne sies.

Pen.
Menaechme, vigila.

Men.
Vigilo hercle equidem, quod sciam.

Pen.
Non me novisti?

Men.
Non negem, si noverim.

Pen.
Tuom parasitum non novisti?

Men.
Non tibi
sanum est, adulescens, sinciput, intellego.

Pen.
Responde, surrupuistin uxori tuae
pallam istanc hodie átque dédisti Erotio?

Men.

Neque hercle ego uxorem habeo neque ego Erotio
dedi nec pallam surrupui.

Pen.
Satin sanus es?
occisast haec res. non ego te indutum foras
exire vidi pallam?

Men.
Vae capiti tuo.
omnis cinaedos esse censes, tu quia es?
tun med indutum fuisse pallam praedicas?

Pen.
Ego hercle vero.

Men.
Non tu abis quo dignus es?
aut te piari iube, homo insanissime.

Pen.
Numquam edepol quisquam me exorabit, quin tuae
uxori rem omnem iám, uti sit gesta, eloquar;
omnes in te istaec recident contumeliae:
faxo haud inultus prandium comederis. —

Men.
Quid hoc ést negoti? satine, ut quemque conspicor,
ita me ludificant? sed concrepuit ostium.

Ancilla
Menaechme, amare ait te multum Erotium,
ut hoc una opera sibi ad aurificem deferas,
atque huc ut addas auri pondo únciam
iubeasque spinter novom reconcinnarier.

Men.
Et istúc et aliud, si quid curari volet,

me curaturum dicito, quidquid volet.

Anc.
Scin quid hoc sit spinter?

Men.
Nescio, nisi aureum.

Anc.
Hoc est quod olim clanculum ex armario
te surrupuisse aiebas uxori tuae.

Men.
Numquam hercle factum est.

Anc.
Non meministi, obsecro?
redde igitur spinter, si non meministi.

Men.
Mane.
immo equidem memini. nempe hoc est, quod illí dedi.

Anc.
Istuc.

Men.
Vbi illae armillaé sunt, quas una dedi?

Anc.
Numquam dedisti.

Men.
Nam pol hoc unum dedi.

Anc.
Dicam curare?

Men.

Dicito: curabitur.
et palla et spinter faxo referantur simul.

Anc.
Amabo, mi Menaechme, inauris da mihi
faciendas pondo duom nummum, stalagmia,
ut te libenter videam, quom ad nos veneris.

Men.
Fiat. cedo aurum, ego manupretium dabo.

Anc.
Da sodes abs te: ego post reddidero tibi.

Men.
Immo cedo abs te: ego post tibi reddam duplex.

Anc.
Non habeo.

Men.
At tu, quando habebis, tum dato.

Anc.
Numquid me vis? —

Men.
Haec me curaturum dicito —
ut quantum possint quique liceant veneant.
iamne abiit intro? abiit, operuit fores.
di me quidem omnes adiuvant, augent, amant.
sed quid ego cesso, dum datur mi occasio
tempusque, abire ab his locis lenoniis?
propera, Menaechme, fer pedem, confer gradum.
demam hanc coronam atque abiciam ad laevam manum,
ut, siquis sequatur, hac me abiisse censeant.
ibo et conveniam servom, si potero, meum,
ut haec, quae bona dant di mihi, ex me sciat. —

ACT IV.

Matrona
Egone hic me patiar frustra in matrimonio,
ubi vir compilet clanculum quidquid domist
atque ea ad amicam deferat?

Pen.
Quin tu taces?
manufesto faxo iam opprimes: sequere hac modo.
pallam ad phrygionem cum corona ébrius
ferebat, hodie tibi quam surrupuit domo.
sed eccám coronam quám habuit. num mentior?
em hac ábiit, si vis persequi vestigiis.
atque edepol eccum óptume revortitur;
sed pallam non fert.

Mat.
Quid ego nunc cum illoc agam?

Pen.
Idem quod semper: male habeas; sic censeo.
huc concedamus: ex insidiis aucupa.

Menaechmvs
Vt hóc utimúr maximé more móro
moléstoque múltum, atque utí quique súnt
optumí, maxumé morem habént hunc:
cliéntes sibi ómnes volúnt esse múltos:
boníne an malí sint, id haúd quaeritánt;
res magís quaeritúr quam cliéntum fidés
cuius modí clueat.
si ést pauper átque haud malús, nequam habétur,
sin díves malúst, is cliéns frugi habétur.
quí neque legés neque aequóm bonum usquám colunt,
sollícitos patrónos habént.
datúm denegánt quod datum ést, litiúm plení, rapaces

virí, fraudulénti,
qui aut faénore aut periúriis habént rem parátam,
mens est in quo ...
eís ubi dicitur dies, simul patronis dicitur.
quippe qui pro illis loquimur quae male fecerunt
aut ád populum aut ín iure aut ápud aedilem rés est.
sicút me hodie nimis sóllicitum cliens quídam habuit, neque quód volui
agere aút quicum licitumst, ita med attinuit, ita detinuit.
ápud aediles pro eius factis plurumisque pessumisque
dixi causam, condiciones tetuli tortas, confragosas:
aut plus aut minus quám opus fuerat dicto dixeram † controversiam, ut
sponsio fierét. quid ille? qui ... praedem dedit.
néc magis manufestum ego hominem úmquam ullum teneri vidi:
omnibus male factis testes tres aderant acerrumi.
di illum ómnes perdant, íta mihi
hunc hódie corrupít diem,
meque adeo, quí hodie forum
umquam oculis inspexi meis.
diem corrupi óptimum:
iussi adparari prandium,
amica exspectat me, scio.
ubi primum est licitum, ílico
properavi abire de foro.
iratast, credo, nunc mihi;
placabit palla quam dedi,
quam hódie uxori ábstuli atque huic détuli Erótio.

Pen.
Quid aís?

Mat.
Viro me malo mále nuptam.

Pen.
Satin aúdis quae illic lóquitur?

Mat.
Satis.

Men.
Sí sapiam, hinc intro ábeam, ubi mi bene sít.

Pen.
Mane: male erit pótius.

Mat.
Ne íllam ecastor faénerato ábstulisti.

Pen.
Síc datur.

Mat.
Clanculum te istaec flagitia facere censebas potis?

Men.
Quid illuc est, uxor, negoti?

Mat.
Men rogas?

Men.
Vin hunc rogem?

Mat.
Aufer hinc palpationes.

Pen.
Perge tu.

Men.
Quid tu mihi
tristis es?

Mat.
Te scire oportet.

Pen.
Scit, sed dissimulat malus.

Me.
Quid negotist?

Ma.
Pallam —

Me.
Pallam?

Ma.
Quidam pallam —

Pen.
Quid paves?

Men.
Nil equidem paveo.

Pen.
Nisi unum: palla pallorem incutit.
at tu ne clam me comesses prandium. perge in virum.

Men.
Non taces?

Pen.
Non hercle vero taceo. nutat, ne loquar.

Men.
Non hercle ego quidem usquam quicquam nuto neque nicto tibi.

Ma.
Ne ego mecastor mulier misera.

Me.
Qui tu misera es? mi expedi.

Pen.
Nihil hoc confidentius, qui quae vides ea pernegat.

Men.
Per Iovem deosque omnis adiuro, uxor, (satin hoc est tibi?)
me isti non nutasse.

Pen.
Credit iam tibi de isto: illuc redi.

Men.
Quó ego redeam?

Pen.
Equidem ad phrygionem censeo. ei, pallam refer.

Men.
Quae istaec palla est?

Pen.
Taceo iam, quando haec rem non meminit suam.

...

Men.
Numquis servorum deliquit? num ancillae aut servi tibi
responsant? eloquere. impune non erit.

Mat.
Nugas agis.

Men.
Tristis admodum es. non mi istuc satis placet.

Mat.
Nugas agis.

Men.
Certe familiarium aliquoi írata es.

Mat.
Nugas agis.

Men.
Num mihi es irata saltem?

Mat.
Nunc tu non nugas agis.

Men.
Non edepol deliqui quicquam.

Mat.
Em rursum nunc nugas agis.

Men.
Dic, mea uxor, quid tibi aegre est?

Pen.
Bellus blanditur tibi.

Men.
Potin ut mihi molestus ne sis? num te appello?

Mat.
Aufer manum.

Pen.
Sic datur. properato absente me comesse prandium,
post ante aedis cum corona me derideto ebrius.

Men.
Neque edepol ego prandi neque hodie huc intro tetuli pedem.

Pen.
Tun negas?

Men.
Nego hercle vero.

Pen.
Nihil hoc homine audacius.
non ego te modo hic ante aedis cum corona florea
vidi astare? quom negabas mi esse sanum sinciput,
et negabas me novisse, peregrinum aibas esse te?

Men.
Quin ut dudum divorti abs te, redeo nunc demum domum.

Pen.
Novi ego te. non mihi censebas esse, qui te ulciscerer.
omnia hercle uxori dixi.

Men.
Quid dixisti?

Pen.
Nescio,
eam ipsus roga.

Men.
Quid hoc est, uxor? quidnam hic narravit tibi?
quid id est? quid taces? quin dicis quid sit?

Mat.
Quasi tu nescias.

...

palla mi est domo surrepta.

Men.
Palla surrepta est tibi?

Mat.
Me rogas?

Men.

Pol haud rogem te, si sciam.

Pen.
O hominem malum,
ut dissimulat. non potes celare: rem novit probe.
omnia hercle ego edictavi.

Men.
Quid id est?

Mat.
Quando nil pudet
neque vis tua voluntate ipse profiteri, audi atque ades.
et quid tristis sim et quid hic mihi dixerit, faxo scias.
palla mi est domo surrupta.

Men.
Palla surruptast mihi?

Pen.
Viden ut te scelestus captat? huic surruptast, non tibi.
nam profecto tibi surrupta si esset — salva non foret.

Men.
Nil mihi tecum est. sed tu quid ais?

Mat.
Palla, inquam, periit domo.

Men.
Quis eam surrupuit?

Mat.
Pol istuc ille scit qui illam abstulit.

Men.
Quis is homo est?

Mat.
Menaechmus quidam.

Men.
Edepol factum nequiter.
quis is Menaechmust?

Mat.
Tu istic, inquam.

Men.
Egone?

Mat.
Tu.

Men.
Quis arguit?

Mat.
Egomet.

Pen.
Et ego. atque huic amicae detulisti Erotio.

Men.
Egon dedi?

Mat.
Tu, tu istic, inquam. vin adferri noctuam,
quae ‘tu tu’ usque dicat tibi? nam nos iam defessi sumus.

Men.
Per Iovem deosque omnis adiuro, uxor (satin hoc est tibi?)
non dedisse.

Mat.

Immo hercle vero, nos non falsum dicere.

Men.
Sed ego illam non condonavi, sed sic utendam dedi.

Mat.
Equidem ecastor tuam nec chlamydem do foras nec pallium
cuiquam utendum. mulierem aequom est vestimentum muliebre
dare foras, virum virile. quin refers pallam domum?

Men.
Ego faxo referetur.

Mat.
Ex re tua, ut opinor, feceris;
nam domum numquam introibis, nisi feres pallam simul.
eo domum.

Pen.
Quid mihi futurum est, qui tibi hanc operam dedi?

Mat.
Opera reddetur, quando quid tibi erit surruptum domo. —

Pen.
Id quidem edepol numquam erit, nam nihil est quod perdam domi.
cum viro cum uxore di vos perdant. properabo ad forum,
nam ex hac familia me plane éxcidisse intellego. —

Men.
Male mi uxor sese fecisse censet, quom exclusit foras;
quasi non habeam, quo intromittar, alium meliorem locum.
si tibi displiceo, patiundum: at placuero huic Erotio,
quae me non excludet ab se, sed apud se occludet domi.
nunc ibo, orabo ut mihi pallam reddat, quam dudum dedi;
aliam illi redimam meliorem. heus, ecquis hic est ianitor?
aperite atque Erotium aliquis evocate ante ostium.

Erotivm
Quis hic me quaerit?

Men.
Sibi inimicus magis quam aétati tuae.

Er.
Mi Menaechme, cur ante aedis astas? sequere intro.

Men.
Mane.
scin quid est quod ego ad te venio?

Er.
Scio, ut tibi ex me sit volup.

Men.
Immo edepol pallam illam, amabo te, quam tibi dudum dedi,
mihi eam redde. uxor rescivit rem omnem, ut factum est, ordine.
ego tibi redimam bis tanto pluris pallam, quam voles.

Er.
Tibi dedi equidem illam, ad phrygionem út ferres, paulo prius,
et illud spinter, ut ad aurificem ferres, ut fieret novom.

Men.
Mihi tu ut dederis pallam et spinter? numquam factum reperies.
nam ego quidem postquam illam dudum tibi dedi atque abii ad forum,
nunc redeo, nunc te postillac video.

Er.
Video quam rem agis.
quia commisi, ut me defrudes, ad eam rem adfectas viam.

Men.
Neque edepol te defrudandi causa posco (quin tibi
dico uxorem rescivisse) —

Er.
Nec te ultro oravi ut dares:
tute ultro ad me detulisti, dedisti eam dono mihi;
eandem nunc reposcis: patiar. tibi habe, aufer, utere
vel tu vel tua uxor, vel etiam in loculos compingite.
tu huc post hunc diem pedem intro non feres, ne frustra sis;
quando tu me bene merentem tibi habes despicatui,
nisi feres argentum, frustra me ductare non potes.
aliam posthac invenito quám habeas frustratui. —

Men.
Nimis iracunde hercle tandem. heús tu, tibi dico, mane,
redi. etiamne astas? etiam audes mea revorti gratia?
abiit intro, occlusit aedis. nunc ego sum exclusissimus:
neque domi neque apud amicam mihi iam quicquam creditur.
ibo et consulam hanc rem amicos, quid faciendum censeant. —

ACT V.

Menaechmvs
Nimis stúlte dudum feci, quom marsuppium
Messenioni cum argento concredidi.
immersit aliquo sese, credo, in ganeum.

Matrona
Provisam quam mox vir meus redeat domum.
sed eccum video. salva sum, pallam refert.

Men.
Demiror ubi nunc ambulet Messenio.

Mat.
Adibo atque hominem accipiam quibus dictis meret.
non te pudet prodire in conspectum meum,
flagitium hominis, cum istoc ornatu?

Men.
Quid est?
quae te res agitat, mulier?

Mat.
Etiamne, impudens,
muttire verbum unum audes aut mecum loqui?

Men.
Quid tandem admisi in me, ut loqui non audeam?

Mat.
Rogas me? o hominis impudentem audaciam!

Men.
Non tu scis, mulier, Hecubam quapropter canem
Graii esse praedicabant?

Mat.
Non equidem scio.

Men.
Quia idem faciebat Hecuba quod tu nunc facis:
omnia mala ingerebat, quemquem aspexerat.
itaque adeo iure coepta appellari est canes.

Mat.
Non ego istaec tua flagitia possum perpeti.
nam med aetatem viduam ésse mavelim,
quam istaec flagitia tua pati quae tu facis.

Men.
Quid id ad me, tu te nuptam possis perpeti
an sis abitura a tuo viro? an mos hic ita est,
peregrino ut advenienti narrent fabulas?

Mat.
Quas fabulas? non, inquam, patiar praeterhac,
quin vidua vivam quam tuos móres perferam.

Men.
Mea quidem hercle causa vidua vivito,
vel usque dum regnum optinebit Iuppiter.

Mat.
At mihi negabas dudum surrupuisse te,
nunc eandem ante oculos attines: non te pudet?

Men.
Eu hercle, mulier, multum et audax et mala es.
tun tibi hanc surreptam dicere audes, quam mihi
dedit alia mulier ut concinnandam darem?

Mat.
Ne istuc mecastor — iam patrem accersam meum
atque ei narrabo tua flagitia quae facis.

ei, † Deceo, quaere meum patrem, tecum simul
ut veniat ad me: ita rem esse dicito.
iam ego aperiam istaec tua flagitia.

Men.
Sanan es?
quae mea flagitia?

Mat.
Pallam atque aurum meum
domo suppilas tuae uxori et tuae
degeris amicae. satin haec recte fabulor?

Men.
Quaeso hercle, mulier, si scis, monstra quod bibam,
tuam qui possim perpeti petulantiam.
quem tú hominem esse me arbitrere, nescio;
ego te simitu novi cum Porthaone.

Mat.
Si me derides, at pol illum non potes,
patrem meum, qui huc advenit. quin respicis?
novistin tu illum?

Men.
Novi cum Calcha simul:
eodém die illum vidi quo te ante hunc diem.

Mat.
Negas novisse me? negas patrem meum?

Men.
Idem hercle dicam, sí avom vis adducere.

Mat.
Ecastor pariter hoc atque alias res soles.

Senex

Vt aétas mea ést atque ut hóc usus fácto est
gradum proferam, progrediri properabo.
sed id quam mihi facile sit, haud sum falsus.
nam pernicitas deserit: consitus sum
senectute, onustum gero corpus, vires
reliquere: ut aetas mala est; mers mala ergost.
nam res plurumas pessumas, quom advenit, fert:
quas si aútumem omnis, nimis lóngus sermost.
sed haec res mihi in pectore et corde curaest,
quidnam hóc sit negóti, quod fília sic
repénte expetít me, ut ád sese irem.
nec, quíd id sit, mihí certiús facit, quid
velít, quid me accersat.
verúm propemodúm iam sció, quid siet rei.
credo cum viro litigium natum esse aliquod.
ita istaec solent, quae viros subservire
sibi postulant, dote fretae, feroces.
et illi quoque haud abstinent saepe culpa.
verum est modus tamen, quoad pati uxorem oportet;
nec pol filia umquam patrem accersit ad se,
nisi aut quid commissi aut iurgi est iusta causa.
sed id quidquid est, iam sciam. atque eccam eampse
ante aedis et eius virum tristem video.
id ést quod suspicábar.
áppellabo hanc.

Mat.
Ibo advorsum. sálve multum, mí pater.

Sen.
Salva sis. salven advenio? salven accersi iubes?
quid tu tristis es? quid ille autem abs te iratus destitit?
nescio quíd vos velitati éstis inter vos duos.
loquere, uter meruistis culpam? paucis, non longos logos.

Mat.
Nusquam equidem quicquam deliqui: hoc primum te absolvo,

pater.
verum vivere hic non possum neque durare ullo modo.
proin tu me hinc abducas.

Sen.
Quid istuc autem est?

Mat.
Ludibrio, pater,
habeor.

Sen.
Vnde?

Mat.
Ab illo, quoi me mandavisti, meo viro.

Sen.
Ecce autem litigium. quotiens tandem édixi tibi,
ut caveres, neuter ad me iretis cum querimonia?

Mat.
Qui ego istuc, mi pater, cavere possum?

Sen.
Men interrogas?

Mat.
Nisi non vis.

Sen.
Quotiens monstravi tibi, viro ut morem geras,
quid ille faciat, né id observes, quó eat, quid rerum gerat.

Mat.
At enim ille hinc amat meretricem ex proxumo.

Sen.

Sane sapit,
atque ob istánc industriam etiam faxo amabit amplius.

Mat.
Atque ibi potat.

Sen.
Tua quidem ille causa potabit minus,
si illic sive alibi libebit? quae haec, malum, impudentiast?
una opera prohibere, ad cenam ne promittat, postules,
neve quemquam accipiat alienum apud se. serviren tibi
postulas viros? dare una ópera pensum postules,
inter ancillas sedere iubeas, lanam carere.

Mat.
Non equidem mihi te advocatum, pater, adduxi, sed viro.
hinc stas, illim causam dicis.

Sen.
Si ille quid deliquerit,
multo tanto illum accusabo, quam te accusavi, amplius.
quando te auratam et vestitam bene habet, ancillas penum
recte praehibet, melius sanam est, mulier, mentem sumere.

Mat.
At ille suppilat mihi aurum et pallas ex arcis domo,
me despoliat, mea ornamenta clam ad meretrices degerit.

Sen.
Male facit, si istuc facit; si non facit, tu male facis,
quae insontem insimules.

Mat.
Quin etiam nunc habet pallam, pater,
et spinter, quod ad hanc detulerat, nunc, quia rescivi, refert.

Sen.
Iám ego ex hoc, ut factumst, scibo. íbo ad hominem atque adloquar.

dic mi istuc, Menaechme, quod vos dissertatis, ut sciam.
quid tu tristis es? quid illa autem irata abs te destitit?

Men.
Quisquis es, quidquid tibi nomen est, senex, summum Iovem
deosque do testes —

Sen.
Qua de re aut cuius rei rerum omnium?

Men.
Me neque isti male fecisse mulieri, quae me arguit
hanc domo ab se surrupuisse atque abstulisse ... deierat.
sí ego intra aedis huius umquam, ubi habitat, penetravi pedem,
omnium hominum exopto ut fiam miserorum miserrimus.

Sen.
Sanun es, qui istuc exoptes aut neges te umquam pedem
in eas aedis intulisse ubi habitas, insanissime?

Men.
Tun, senex, ais habitare med in illisce aedibus?

Sen.
Tun negas?

Men.
Nego hercle vero.

Sen.
Immo hercle †ludere negas;
nisi quo nocte hac exmigrastis. concede huc, mea filia.
quid tu ais? num hinc exmigrastis?

Mat.
Quem in locum aut quam ob rem, obsecro?

Sen.

Non edepol scio.

Mat.
Profecto ludit te hic. non tu tenes?

Sen.
Iam vero, Menaechme, satis iocatu's. nunc hanc rem gere.

Men.
Quaeso, quid mihi tecum est? unde aut quis tu homo es? ...
† tibi aut adeo isti, quae mihi molesta est quoquo modo?

Mat.
Viden tu ílli oculos virere? ut viridis exoritur colos
ex temporibus atque fronte, ut oculi scintillant, vide.

Men.
Quid mihi meliust, quam quando illi me insanire praedicant,
ego med adsimulem insanire, ut illos a me absterream?

Mat.
Vt pandiculans oscitatur. quid nunc faciam, mi pater?

Sen.
Concede huc, mea nata, ab istoc quam potest longissime.

Men.
Euhoe Bacche, Bromie, quo me in silvam venatum vocas?
audio, sed non abire possum ab his regionibus,
ita illa me ab laeva rabiosa femina adservat canis,
poste autem illinc hircus † alus, qui saepe aetate in sua
perdidit civem innocentem falso testimonio.

Sen.
Vae capiti tuo.

Men.
Ecce, Apollo mi ex oraclo ímperat,

ut ego ílli oculos exuram lampadibus ardentibus.

Mat.
Perii, mi pater, minatur míhi oculos exurere.

90

Men.
Ei mihi, insanire me aiunt, ultro cum ipsi insaniunt.

Sen.
Filia, heus.

Mat.
Quid est? quid agimus?

Sen.
Quid si ego huc servos cito?
ibo, abducam qui hunc hinc tollant et domi devinciant,
prius quam turbarum quid faciat amplius.

Men.
Enim haereo;
ni occupo aliquid mihi consilium, hí domum me ad se auferent.
95 pugnis me votas in huius ore quicquam parcere,
ni a meis oculis abscedat in malam magnam crucem.
faciam quod iubes, Apollo.

Sen.
Fuge domum, quantum potest,
ne hic te obtundat.

Mat.
Fugio. amabo, ádserva istunc, mi pater,
ne quo hinc abeat. sumne ego mulier misera, quae illaec audio? —

Men.
100 Haud male, Apollo illanc amovi; nunc hunc impurissimum,
barbatum, tremulum Tithonum, qui cluet Cygno patre,

ita mihi imperas ut ego huius membra atque ossa atque artua
comminuam illo scipione quem ipse habet.

Sen.
Dabitur malum,
me quidem si attígeris aut si propius ad me accesseris.

Men.
Faciam quod iubes; securim capiam ancipitem, atque hunc senem
osse fini dedolabo ássulatim viscera.

Sen.
Enim vero illud praecavendumst, atque adcurandumst mihi;
sane ego illúm metuo, ut minatur, ne quid male faxit mihi.

Men.
Multa mi imperas, Apollo: nunc equos iunctos iubes
capere me indomitos, ferocis, atque in currum inscendere,
ut ego hunc proteram leonem vetulum, olentem, edentulum.
iam adstiti in currum, iam lora teneo, iam stimulus in manust.
agite equi, facitote sonitus ungularum appareat,
cursu celeri facite inflexa sit pedum pernicitas.

Sen.
Mihin equis iunctis minare?

Men.
Ecce, Apollo, denuo
me iubes facere impetum in eum qui stat atque occidere.
sed quis hic est qui me capillo hínc de curru deripit?
imperium tuom demutat atque edictum Apollinis.

Sen.
Eu hércle morbum acrem ac durum ... di vostram fidem.
vel hic qui insanit, quam valuit paulo prius;
ei derepente tantus morbus incidit.
ibo atque accersam medicum iam quantum potest. —

Men.
Iamne isti abierunt, quaeso, ex conspectu meo,
qui me vi cogunt, ut validus insaniam?
quid cesso abire ad navem, dum salvo licet?
vosque omnis quaeso, si senex revenerit,
ne me indicetis qua platea hinc aufugerim. —

Senex
Lumbi sedendo, óculi spectando dolent,
manendo medicum, dum se ex opere recipiat.
odiosus tandem vix ab aegrotis venit.
ait se óbligasse crus fractum Aesculapio,
Apollini autem brachium. nunc cogito,
utrum me dicam ducere medicum an fabrum.
atque eccum incedit. move formicinum gradum.

Medicvs
quid esse ílli morbi, dixeras? narra, senex.
num laruatust aut cerritus? fac sciam.
num eum veternus aut aqua intercus tenet?

Sen.
Quin ea te causa duco, ut id dicas mihi
atque illum ut sanum facias.

Med.
Perfacile id quidemst.
sanum futurum, mea ego id promitto fide.

Sen.
Magna cum cura ego illum curari volo.

Med.
Quin suspirabo plus sescenta ín die:
ita ego eum cum cura magna curabo tibi.

Sen.
Atque eccum ipsum hominem. observemus, quam rem agat.

Menaechmvs
Edepol ne hic dies pervorsus atque advorsus mi optigit.
quae me clam ratus sum facere, ea ómnia fecit palam
parasitus, qui me complevit flagiti et formidinis,
meus Vlixes, suo qui regi tantum concivit mali.
quém ego hominem, síquidem vivo, vita evolvam sua —
sed ego stultus sum, qui illius esse dico, quae meast:
meo cibo et sumptu educatust. anima privabo virum.
condigne autem haec meretrix fecit, ut mos est meretricius:
quia rogo, palla ut referatur rursum ad uxorem meam,
mihi se ait dedisse. eu edepol né ego homo vivo miser.

Sen.
Audin quae loquitur?

Med.
Se miserum praedicat.

Sen.
Adeas velim.

Med.
Salvos sis, Menaechme. quaeso, cur apertas brachium?
non tu scis, quantum isti morbo nunc tuo facias mali?

Men.
Quin tu te suspendis?

Sen.
Ecquid sentis?

Med.
Quidni sentiam?
non potest haec res ellebori †iungere optinerier.
sed quid ais, Menaechme?

Men.
Quid vis?

Med.
Dic mihi hoc quod te rogo:
album an atrum vinum potas?

Men.
Quin tu is in malam crucem?

Med.
Iam hercle occeptat insanire primulum. ...

Men.
Quin tu me interrogas,
purpureum panem an puniceum soleam ego esse an luteum?
soleamne esse avis squamosas, piscis pennatos?

Sen.
Papae,
audin tu ut deliramenta loquitur? quid cessas dare
potionis aliquid prius quam percipit insania?

Med.
Mane modo, etiam percontabor alia.

Sen.
Occidis fabulans.

Med.
Dic mihi hoc: solent tibi umquam óculi duri fieri?

Men.
Quid? tu me lucustam censes esse, homo ignavissime?

Med.
Dic mihi: en umquam intestina tibi crepant, quod sentias?

Men.
Vbi satur sum, nulla crepitant; quando esurio, tum crepant.

Med.
Hoc quidem edepol hau pro insano verbum respondit mihi.
perdormiscin usque ad lucem? facilen tu dormis cubans?

Men.
Perdormisco, si resolvi árgentum cui debeo —
qui te Iuppiter dique omnes, percontator, perduint.

Med.
Nunc homo insanire occeptat: de illis verbis cave tibi.

Sen.
Immo Nestor nunc quidem est de verbis, praeut dudum fuit;
nam dudum uxorem suam esse aiebat rabiosam canem.

Men.
Quid, ego?

Sen.
Dixti insanus, inquam.

Men.
Egone?

Sen.
Tu istic, qui mihi
etiam me iunctis quadrigis minitatu's prosternere.
egomet haec te vidi facere, égomet haec ted arguo.

Men.
At ego te sacram coronam surrupuisse Iovi scio,
et ob eam rem in carcerem ted esse compactum scio,
et postquam es emissus, caesum virgis sub furca scio;
tum patrem occidisse et matrem vendidisse etiam scio.
satin haec pro sano male dicta male dictis respondeo?

Sen.
Obsecro hercle, medice, propere, quidquid facturu's, face.

non vides hominem insanire?

Med.
Scin quid facias optimum est?
ad me face uti deferatur.

Sen.
Itane censes?

Med.
Quippini?
ibi meo arbitratu potero curare hominem.

Sen.
Age ut lubet.

Med.
Elleborum potabis faxo áliquos viginti dies.

Men.
At ego te pendentem fodiam stimulis triginta dies.

Med.
I, arcesse homines, qui illunc ad me deferant.

Sen.
Quot sunt satis?

Med.
Proinde ut insanire video, quattuor, nihilo minus.

Sen.
Iam hic erunt. asserva tu istunc, medice.

Med.
Immo ibo domum,
ut parentur quibus paratis opus est. tu servos iube
hunc ad me ferant.

Sen.
Iam ego illic faxo erit.

Med.
Abeo.

Sen.
Vale. —

Men.
Abiit socerus, abiit medicus. nunc sólus sum. pro Iuppiter,
quid illuc est quod med hisce homines insanire praedicant?
nam équidem, postquam gnatus sum, numquam aegrotavi unum diem,
neque ego insanio neque pugnas neque ego litis coepio.
salvus salvos alios video, novi homines, adloquor.
an illi perperam insanire me aiunt, ipsi insaniunt?
quid ego nunc faciam? domum ire cupio: úxor non sinit;
huc autem nemo intromittit. nimis proventum est nequiter.
hic ero usque: ad noctem saltem, credo, intromittar domum.

Messenio
Spectámen bonó servo id ést, qui rem erílem
procurat, videt, collocat cogitatque,
ut absente eró rem erí diligenter
tutétur, quam si ípse adsit aút rectiús.
tergúm quam gulam, crura quam ventrem oportet
potióra esse, cuí cor modéste sitúmst.
recordetur id, qui nihili sunt, quid eis preti
détur ab suis eris, ignavis, improbis viris:
verbéra compedes
molaé, magna lassitudo fames frigus durum,
haec prétia sunt ignaviae.
id ego male malum metuo: propterea bonum esse certumst potius quam malum;
nam magis multo patior facilius verba: verbera ego odi,
nimióque edo lubéntius molitúm, quam molitum praéhibeo.

proptérea eri imperium éxsequor, bene ét sedate servo id;
atqué mihi id prodest.
álii ita ut in rem esse ducunt, sint: ego ita ero ut me esse oportet;
metum míhi adhibeam, culpam ábstineam, ero ut ómnibus in locis
sím praesto:
servi, qui cum culpa carent metuont, solent esse eris utibiles.
nam illi, qui nil metuont, postquam malum promeriti, tunc ei
metuont.
metuam haúd multum. prope est quándo erus ob fácta pretium
exsólvet.
éo ego exemplo servio, térgi ut in rem esse arbitror.
postquam ín tabernam vása et servos cónlocavi, ut iusserat,
ita vénio adversum. nunc foris pultabo, adesse ut me sciat,
† neque virum ex hoc saltu damni salvom ut educam foras.
séd metuo, ne sero veniam depugnato proelio.

Senex
Pér ego vobis deos atque homines dico, ut imperium meum
sapienter habeatis curae, quae imperavi atque impero:
facite illic homo iam in medicinam ablatus sublimen siet,
nisi quidem vos vostra crura aut latera nihili penditis.
cave quisquam, quod illíc minitetur, vostrum flocci fecerit.
quid státis? quid dubitátis? iam sublímen raptum opórtuit.
ego ibo ad medicum: praesto ero illi, cum venietis.

Men.
Occidi,
quid hoc ést negoti? quid illisce homines ad me currunt, opsecro?
quid voltis vos? quid quaeritatis? quid me circumsistitis?
quo rapitis me? quo fertis me? perii, opsecro vestram fidem,
Epidamnienses, subvenite, cives. quin me mittitis?

Mess.
Pro di immortales, obsecro, quid ego oculis aspicio meis?
erum meum indignissime nescio qui sublimen ferunt.

Men.

Ecquis suppetias mihi audet ferre?

Mess.
Ego, ere, audacissime.
o facinus indignum et malum, Epidamnii cives, erum
meum hic in pacato oppido luci deripier in via,
qui liber ad vos venerit.
mittite istunc.

Men.
Obsecro te, quisquis es, operam mihi ut des,
neu sinas in me insignite fieri tantam iniuriam.

Mess.
Immo et operam dabo et defendam et subvenibo sedulo.
numquam te patiar perire, me perirest aequius.
eripe oculum ísti, ab umero qui tenet, ere, te obsecro.
hisce ego iam sementem in ore faciam pugnosque obseram.
maximo hodie malo hercle vostro ístunc fertis. mittite.

Men.
Teneo ego huic oculum.

Mess.
Face ut oculi locus in capite appareat.
vos scelesti, vos rapacis, vos praedones.

Lorarii.
Periimus.
obsecro hercle.

Mess.
Mittite ergo.

Men.
Quid me vobis tactiost?
pecte pugnis.

Mess.
Agite abite, fugite hinc in malam crucem.
em tibi etiam: quia postremus cedis, hoc praemi feres.
nimis bene ora commetavi atque ex mea sententia.
edepol, ere, ne tibi suppetias temperi adveni modo.

Men.
At tibi di semper, adulescens, quisquis es, faciant bene.
nam absque te esset, hodie numquam ad solem occasum viverem.

Mess.
Ergo edepol, si recte facias, ere, med emittas manu.

Men.
Liberem ego te?

Mess.
Verum, quandoquidem, ere, te servavi.

Men.
Quid est?
adulescens, erras.

Mess.
Quid, erro?

Men.
Per Iovem adiuro patrem,
med erum tuom non esse.

Mess.
Non taces?

Men.
Non mentior;
nec meus servos úmquam tale fecit quale tu mihi.

Mess.

Sic sine igitur, si tuom négas me ésse, abire liberum.

Men.
Mea quidem hercle causa liber esto atque ito quo voles.

Mess.
Nempe iubes?

Men.
Iubeo hercle, si quid imperi est in te mihi.

Mess.
Salve, mi patrone. cum tu liber es, Messenio,
gaudeo. credo hercle vobis. sed, patrone, te obsecro,
ne minus imperes mihí quam cum tuos servos fui.
apud ted habitabo et quando ibis, una tecum ibo domum.

Men.
Minime.

Mess.
Nunc ibo in tabernam, vasa atque argentum tibi
referam. recte est obsignatum in vidulo marsuppium
cum viatico: id tibí iam huc adferam.

Men.
Adfer strenue.

Mess.
Salvom tibi ita ut mihi dedisti reddibo. hic me mane. —

Men.
Nimia mira mihi quidem hodie exorta sunt miris modis:
alii me negant eum esse qui sum, atque excludunt foras

...

vel ille qui se petere argentum modo, qui servom se meum

esse aiebat, meus servator, quem ego modo emisi manu;
is ait se mihi allaturum cum argento marsuppium:
id si attulerit, dicam ut a me ábeat liber quo volet,
ne tum, quando sanus factus sit, a me argentum petat.
socer et medicus me insanire aiebant. quid sit, mira sunt.
haec nihilo esse mihi videntur setius quam somnia.
nunc ibo intro ad hanc meretricem, quamquam suscenset mihi,
si possum exorare ut pallam reddat, quam referam domum. —
Menaechmvs (sosicles)
Men hodie usquam convenisse te, audax, audes dicere,
postquam advorsum mi imperavi ut huc venires?

Messenio
Quin modo
erupui, homines quom ferebant te sublimen quattuor,
apud hasce aedis. tu clamabas deum fidem atque hominum omnium,
quóm ego accurro teque eripio vi pugnando ingratiis.
ob eam rem, quia te servavi, me amisisti liberum.
cum argentum dixi me petere et vasa, tu quantum potest
praecucurristi obviam, ut quae fecisti infitias eas.

Sos.
Liberum ego te iussi abire?

Mess.
Certo.

Sos.
Quin certissimumst,
mepte potius fieri servom, quam te umquam emittam manu.

Menaechmvs
Si vóltis per oculos iurare, nihilo hercle ea causa magis
faciétis, ut ego hódie abstulerim pallam et spinter, pessumae.

Mes.
Pro di ímmortales, quid ego video?

S.
Quid vides?

Mes.
Speculum tuom.

Sos.
Quid negoti est?

Mes.
Tuast imago. tam consimilest quam potest.

Sos.
Pol profecto haud est dissimilis, meam quom formam noscito.

Men.
O adulescens, salve, qui me servavisti, quisquis es.

Mess.
Adulescens, quaeso hercle eloquere tuom mihi nomen, nisi piget.

Men.
Non edepol ita promeruisti de me, ut pigeat, quae velis
obsequi. mihi est Menaechmo nomen.

Sos.
Immo edepol mihi.

Men.
Siculus sum Syracusanus.

Sos.
Eadem urbs et patria est mihi.

Men.
Quid ego ex te audio?

Sos.
Hoc quod res est.

Mess.
Novi equidem hunc: erus est meus.
ego quidem huius servos sum, sed med esse huius credidi.
ego hunc censebam te esse, huic etiam éxhibui negotium.
quaeso ignoscas, si quid stulte dixi atque imprudens tibi.

Sos.
Delirare mihi videre: non commeministi, simul
te hodie mecum exire ex navi?

Mess.
Enim vero aequom postulas.
tú erus es: tu servom quaere. tu salveto: tu vale.
hunc ego esse aio Menaechmum.

Men.
At ego me.

Sos.
Quae haec fabulast?
tú es Menaechmus?

Men.
Me esse dico, Moscho prognatum patre.

Sos.
Tun meo patre es prognatus?

Men.
Immo equidem, adulescens, meo;
tuom tibi neque occupare neque praeripere postulo.

Mess.
Di immortales, spem insperatam date mihi quam suspicor.
nam nisi me animus fallit, hi sunt gemini germani duo.
nam et patriam et patrem conmemorant pariter qui fuerint sibi.
sevocabo erum. Menaechme.

Men. Sos.
Quid vis?

Mess.
Non ambos volo,
sed uter vostrorum est advectus mecum navi.

Men.
Non ego.

Sos.
At ego.

Mess.
Te volo igitur. huc concede.

Sos.
Concessi. quid est?

Mess.
Illic homó aut sycophanta aut geminus est frater tuos.
nam ego hominem hominis similiorem numquam vidi álterum.
neque aqua aquae nec lacte est lactis, crede mi, usquam similius,
quam hic tui est, tuque huius autem; post eandem patriam ac patrem
memorat. meliust nos adire átque hunc percontarier.

Sos.
Hercle qui tu me admonuisti recte, et habeo gratiam.
perge operam dare, obsecro hercle; liber esto, si invenis
hunc meum fratrem esse.

Mess.
Spero.

Sos.
Et ego item spero fore.

Mess.

Quid ais tu? Menaechmum, opinor, te vocari dixeras.

Men.
Ita vero.

Mess.
Huic item Menaechmo nomen est. in Sicilia
te Syracusis natum esse dixti: et hic natust ibi.
Moschum tibi patrem fuisse dixti: huic itidem fuit.
nunc operam potestis ambo mihi dare et vobis simul.

Men.
Promeruisti ut ne quid ores quod velis, quin impetres.
tam quasi me emeris argento, liber servibo tibi.

Mess.
Spes mihi est, vos inventurum fratres germanos duos
geminos, una matre natos et patre uno uno die.

Men.
Mira memoras. utinam efficere quod pollicitu's possies.

Mess.
Possum. sed nunc agite uterque id quod rogabo dicite.

Men.
Vbi lubet, roga: réspondebo. nil reticebo quod sciam.

Mess.
Est tibi nomen Menaechmo?

Men.
Fateor.

Mess.
Est itidem tibi?

Sos.

Est.

Mess.
Patrem fuisse Moschum tibi ais?

Men.
Ita vero.

Sos.
Et mihi.

Mess.
Esne tu Syracusanus?

Men.
Certo.

Mess.
Quid tu?

Sos.
Quippini?

Mess.
Optime usque adhuc conveniunt signa. porro operam date.
quid longissime meministi, dic mihi, in patria tua?

Men.
Cum patre ut abii Tarentum ád mercatum, postea
inter homines me deerrare á patre atque inde avehi.

Sos.
Iuppiter supreme, serva me.

Mess.
Quid clamas? quin taces?
quot eras annos gnatus, quom te pater a patria ávehit?

Men.

Septuennis: nam tunc dentes mihi cadebant primulum.
neque patrém umquam postilla vidi.

Mess.
Quid? vos tum patri
filii quot eratis?

Men.
Vt nunc maxime memini, duo.

Mess.
Vter eratis, tun an ille, maior?

Men.
Aeque ambo pares.

Mess.
Qui id potest?

Men.
Gemini ambo eramus.

Sos.
Di me servatum volunt.

Mess.
Si interpellas, ego tacebo potius.

Sos.
Taceo.

Mess.
Dic mihi:
uno nomine ambo eratis?

Men.
Minime. nam mihi hoc erat,
quod nunc est, Menaechmo: íllum tum vocabant Sosiclem.

Sos.
Signa adgnovi, contineri quin complectar non queo.
mi germane gemine frater, salve. ego sum Sosicles.

Men.
Quo modo igitur post Menaechmo nomen est factum tibi?

Sos.
Postquam ad nos renuntiatum est te ... et patrem esse mortuom,
avos noster mutavit: quod tibi nomen est, fecit mihi.

Men.
Credo ita esse factum ut dicis. sed mi hoc responde.

Sos.
Roga.

Men.
Quid erat nomen nostrae matri?

Sos.
Teuximarchae.

Men.
Convenit.
o salve, insperate multis annis post quem conspicor.

Sos.
Frater, et tu, quém ego multis miseriis laboribus
usque adhuc quaesivi quemque ego esse inventum gaudeo.

Mess.
Hoc erat, quod haec te meretrix huius vocabat nomine:
hunc censebat te esse, credo, quom vocat te ad prandium.

Men.
Namque edepol iussi hic mihi hodie prandium apparari,
clam meam uxorem, quoi pallam surrupui dudum domo,

eam dedi huic.

S.
Hanc, dicis, frater, pallam, quam ego habeo?

M.
Haec east.
quo modo haec ad te pervenit?

Sos.
Meretrix huc ad prandium
me abduxit, me sibi dedisse aiebat. prandi perbene,
potavi atque accubui scortum, pallam et aurum hoc abstuli.

Men.
Gaudeo edepol, si quid propter me tibi evenit boni.
nam illa quom te ad se vocabat, memet esse credidit.

Mess.
Numquid me morare quin ego liber, ut iusti, siem?

Men.
Optimum atque aequissimum orat, frater: fac causa mea.

Sos.
Liber esto.

Men.
Quom tu es liber, gaudeo, Messenio.

Mess.
Sed meliorest opus auspicio, ut liber perpetuo siem.

Sos.
Quoniam haec evenerunt, frater, nostra éx sententia,
in patriam redeamus ambo.

Men.

Frater, faciam, ut tu voles.
auctionem hic faciam et vendam quidquid est. nunc interim
eamus intro, frater.

Sos.
Fiat.

Mess.
Scitin quid ego vos rogo?

M.
Quid?

Mes.
Praeconium mi ut detis.

M.
Dabitur.
Mes.
Ergo nunciam
vis conclamari auctionem fore?

Men.
Equidem die septimi.

Mess.
Auctio fiet Menaechmi mane sane septimi.
venibunt servi, supellex, fundi, aedes, omnia.
venibunt quiqui licebunt, praesenti pecunia.
venibit uxor quoque etiam, si quis emptor venerit.
vix credo tota auctione capiet † quinquagesies.
nunc, spectatores, valete et nobis clare plaudite.

MERCATOR

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ACT I.

Charinvs
Duas res simul nunc agere decretumst mihi:
et argumentum et meos amores eloquar.
non ego item facio ut alios in comoediis
vi vidi amoris facere, qui aut nocti aut die
aut soli aut lunae miserias narrant suas:
quos pol ego credo húmanas querimonias
non tanti facere, quid velint quid non velint;
vobis narrabo potius meas nunc miserias.
graece haec vocatur Emporos Philemonis,
eadem Latine Mercator Macci Titi.
pater ad mercatum hinc me meus misit Rhodum;
biennium iam factum est, postquam abii domo.
ibi amare occepi forma eximia mulierem.
sed ea ut sim implicitus dicam, si operaest auribus
atque advortendum ad animum adest benignitas.
et hoc parum hercle more amatorum institi:
†per mea per conatus sum uos sumque inde exilico.
nam amorem haec cuncta vitia sectari solent,
cura aegritudo nimiaque elegantia,
haec non modo illum quí amat, sed quemque attigit
magno atque solido multat infortunio,
nec pol profecto quisquam sine grandi malo
praequam res patitur studuit elegantiae.
sed amori accedunt etiam haec, quae dixi minus:
insomnia, aerumna, error, terror et fuga,
ineptia stultitiaque adeo et temeritas,
incogitantia excors, immodestia,
petulantia et cupiditas, malevolentia,
inertia, aviditas, desidia, iniuria,
inopia, contumelia et dispendium,
multiloquium: parumlóquium hoc ideo fit quia,
quae nihil attingunt ad rem nec sunt usui,
tam amator profert saepe advorso tempore;

hoc pauciloquium rursum idcirco praedico,
quia nullus umquam amator adeost callide
facundus, quae in rem sint suam ut possit loqui.
nunc vos mi irasci ob multiloquium non decet:
eodém quo amorem Venus mi hoc legavit die.
illuc revorti certumst, conata eloquar.
principio ut ex ephebis aetate exii
atque animus studio amotus puerilist meus,
amare valide coepi hinc meretricem: ilico
res exulatum ad illam clám abibat patris.
leno importunus, dominus eius mulieris,
vi summa ut quicque poterat rapiebat domum.
obiurigare pater haec noctes et dies,
perfidiam, iniustitiam lenonum expromere;
lacerari valide suam rem, illius augerier.
summo haec clamore; interdum mussans conloqui:
abnuere, negitare adeo me natum suom.
conclamitare tota urbe et praedicere,
omnes tenerent mutuitanti credere.
amorem multos inlexe in dispendium:
intemperantem, non modestum, iniurium
trahere, exhaurire me quod quirem ab se domo;
ratione pessuma a me ea quae ipsus optuma
omnis labores invenisset perferens,
in amoribus diffunditari ac didier.
convicium tot me annos iam se pascere;
quod nisi puderet, ne luberet vivere.
sese extemplo ex ephebis postquam excesserit,
non, ut ego, amori neque desidiae in otio
operam dedisse, neque potestatem sibi
fuisse; adeo arte cohibitum esse se a patre:
multo opere immundo rustico se exercitum,
neque nisi quinto anno quoque †positum visere
urbem, atque extemplo inde, ut spectavisset peplum,
rus rusum confestim exigi solitum a patre.
ibi multo primum sese familiarium
laboravisse, quom haec pater sibi diceret:

‘tibi aras, tibi occas, tibi seris, tibi idem metis,
tibi denique iste pariet laetitiam labos.’
postquam recesset vita patrio corpore,
agrum se vendidisse atque ea pecunia
navem, metretas quae trecentas tolleret,
parasse atque ea se mercis mercatum undique,
adeo dum, quae tum haberet, peperisset bona;
me idem decere, si ut deceret me forem.
ego mé ubi invisum meo patri esse intellego
atque odio me esse quoi placere aequom fuit,
amens amansque ut ánimum offirmo meum,
dico esse iturum me mercatum, si velit:
amorem missum facere me, dum illi obsequar.
agit grátias mi atque ingenium adlaudat meum;
sed mea promissa non neglexit persequi.
aedificat navem cercurum et mercis emit,
parata navi imponit, praeterea mihi
talentum argenti ipsus sua adnumerat manu;
servom una mittit, qui olim puero parvolo
mihi paedagogus fuerat, quasi uti mihi foret
custos. his sic confectis navem solvimus.
Rhodum venimus, ubi quas merces vexeram
omnis ut volui vendidi ex sententia.
lucrum ingens facio praeterquam mihi meus pater
dedit aestimatas merces: ita peculium
conficio grande. sed dum in portu illi ambulo,
hospes me quidam adgnovit, ad cenam vocat.
venio, decumbo acceptus hilare atque ampliter.
discubitum noctu ut imus, ecce ad me advenit
mulier, qua mulier alia nullast pulchrior;
ea nocte mecum illa hospitis iussu fuit.
vosmet videte quam mihi valde placuerit:
postridie hospitem adeo, oro ut vendat mihi,
dico eius pro méritis gratum me et munem fore.
quid verbis opus est? emi, átque advexi heri.
eam me ádvexisse nolo resciscat pater.
modo eam reliqui ad portum in navi et servolum.

sed quid currentem servom a portu conspicor,
quem navi abire vetui? timeo quid siet.

Acanthio
Ex súmmis opibus víribusque usque éxperire, nítere,
erus ut minor opera tua servetur: agedum, Acanthio,
abige abs te lassitudinem, cave pigritiae praeverteris.
simul enicat suspiritus (vix suffero hercle anhelitum),
simul autem plenis semitis qui adversum eunt: aspellito,
detrude, deturba in viám. haec disciplina hic pessumast:
cúrrenti properanti haud quisquam dignum habet decedere.
ita trés simitu res agendae sunt, quando unam occeperis:
et currendum et pugnandum et autem iurigandum est in via.

Char.
Quid illúc est quod ille tam expedite exquirit cursuram sibi?
curaest, negoti quid sit aut quid nuntiet.

Acan.
Nugas ago.
quam restito, tam maxime res in periclo vortitur.

Char.
Mali nescio quid nuntiat.

Acan.
Genua hunc cursorem deserunt;
perii, seditionem facit lien, óccupat praecordia,
perii, animam nequeo vertere, nimis nihili tibicen siem.

Char.
At tu edepol sume laciniam atque absterge sudorem tibi.

Acan.
numquam edepol omnes balineae mi hanc lassitudinem eximent.
domin án foris dicam esse erum Charinum?

Char.

Ego animi pendeo.
quíd illud sit negoti lubet scire, ex hoc metu ut eximar.

Acan.
Át etiam asto? at etiam cesso foribus facere hisce assulas?
áperite aliquis. ubi Charinus est erus? dómin est an foris?
num quísquam adire ad ostium dignum arbitratur?

Char.
Ecce me,
Acanthio, quem quaeris.

Acan.
Nusquamst disciplina ignavior.

Char.
Quae té malae res ágitant?

Acan.
Multae, ere, te átque me.

Char.
Quid ést negoti?

Acan.
Périimus.

Char.
Principium id inimicis dato.

Acan.
At tibi sortito id optigit.

Char.
Loquere íd negoti quidquid est.

Acan.
Placide, volo adquiescere.

tua causa rupi ramites, iam dudum sputo sanguinem.

Char.
Resinam ex melle Aegyptiam vorato, salvom feceris.

Acan.
At edepol tu calidam picem bibito, aegritudo abscesserit.

Char.
Hóminem ego iracundiorem quam te novi neminem.

Acan.
At ego maledicentiorem quam te novi neminem.

Char.
Sin saluti quod tibi esse censeo, id consuadeo?

Acan.
Apage istiusmodi salutem, cum cruciatu quae advenit.

Char.
Dic mihi, an boni quid usquamst, quod quisquam uti possiet
sine malo omni, aut ne laborem capias cum illo uti voles?

Acan.
Nescio ego istaec: philosophari numquam didici neque scio.
ego bonum, malum quo accedit, mihi dari haud desidero.

Ch.
Cedo tuam mihi dexteram, agedum, Acanthio.

Ac.

Em dabitur, tene.

Char.
Vin tu te mihi obsequentem esse an nevis?

Acan.

Opera licet
experiri, qui me rupi causa currendo tua,
ut quae scirem scire actutum tibi liceret.

Char.

Liberum
caput tibi faciam cis paucos mensis.

Acan.
Palpo percutis.

Char.
Egon ausim tibi usquam quicquam facinus falsum proloqui?
quin iam prius quam sum elocutus, scis si mentiri volo.

Ac.

Ah,
lassitudinem hercle verba tua mihi addunt, enicas.

Ch.
Sicine mi obsequens es?

Ac.

Quid vis faciam?

Ch.
Tun? id quod volo.

Ac.

Quid id est igitur quod vis?

Ch.
Dicam.

Ac.

Dice.

Ch.
At énim placide volo.

Acan.
Dormientis spectatores metuis ne ex somno excites?

Char.
Vae tibi.

Acan.
Tibi equidem a portu adporto hoc —

Char.
Quid fers? dic mihi.

Acan.
Vim metum, cruciatum curam, iurgiumque atque inopiam.

Char.
Perii, tu quidem thensaurum huc mi adportavisti mali.
nullus sum.

Ac.

Immo es —

Ch.
Scio iam, miserum dices tu.

Ac.

Dixi ego tacens.

Char.
Quid istuc est mali?

Acan.

Ne rogites, maxumum infortunium est.

Char.
Obsecro, dissolve iam me; nimis diu animi pendeo.

Acan.
Placide, multa exquirere etiam prius volo quam vapulem.

Char.
Hercle vero vapulabis, nisi iam loquere aut hinc abis.

Acan.
Hoc sis vide, ut palpatur. nullust, quando occepit, blandior.

Char.
Obsecro hercle oroque ut istuc quid sit actutum indices,
quandoquidem mihi supplicandum servolo video meo.

Ac.

Tandem indignus videor?

Char.
Immo dignus.

Ac.

Equidem credidi.

Char.
Obsecro, num navis periit?

Acan.
Salvast navis, ne time.

Ch.
Quid alia armamenta?

Ac.

Salva et sana sunt.

Ch.
Quin tu expedis
quid siet quod me per urbem currens quaerebas modo.

Acan.
Tu quidem ex óre orationem mi eripis.

Char.
Taceo.

Acan.
Tace.
credo, si boni quid ad te nuntiem, instes acriter,
qui nunc, quom malum audiendumst, flagitas me ut eloquar.

Char.
Obsecro hercle te, istuc ut tu mihi malum facias palam.

Ac.

Eloquar, quandoquidem me oras. tuos pater —

Ch.
Quid meus pater?

Acan.
Tuam amicam —

Char.
Quid eam?

Acan.
Vidit.

Char.
Vidit? vae misero mihi.
hoc quod te rogo responde.

Acan.
Quin tu, si quid vis, roga.

Ch.
Qui potuit videre?

Ac.

Oculis.

Ch.
Quo pacto?

Ac.

Hiantibus.

Char.
In hinc dierectus? núgare in re capitali mea.

Acan.
Qui, malum, ego nugor, si tibi quod me rogas respondeo?

Char.
Certen vidit?

Acan.
Tam hercle certe quám ego te aut tu me vides.

Char.
Vbi eam vidit?

Acan.
Intus intra navem, út prope astitit;
et cum ea confabulatust.

Char.
Perdidisti me, pater.
eho tu, eho tu, quin cavisti ne eam videret, verbero?

quin, sceleste, ábstrudebas, né eam conspiceret pater?

Acan.
Quia negotiosi eramus nos nostris negotiis:
armamentis complicandis et componendis studuimus.
dum haec aguntur, lembo advehitur tuos pater pauxillulo,
neque quisquam hominem conspicatust, donec in navem subit.

Char.
Nequiquam, mare, subterfugi á tuis tempestatibus:
equidem me iam censebam esse in terra atque in tuto loco,
verum video med ad saxa ferri saevis fluctibus.
loquere porro, quid sit actum.

Acan.
Postquam aspexit mulierem,
rogitare occepit cuia esset.

Char.
Quid respondit?

Acan.

Ilico
occucurri atque interpello, matri te ancillam tuae
emisse illam.

Char.
Visun est tibi credere id?

Acan.
Etiam rogas?
sed scelestus subigitare occepit.

Char.
Illamne, obsecro?

Acan.

Mirum quin me subigitaret.

Char.
Edepol cor miserum meum,
quod guttatim contabescit, quasi in aquam indideris salem.
perii.

Acan.
Em istuc unum verbum dixisti verissimum.
stultitia istaec est.

Char.
Quid faciam? credo, non credet pater,
si illam matri meae me emisse dicam; post autem mihi
scelus videtur, me parenti proloqui mendacium.
neque ille credet, neque credibile est forma eximia mulierem,
eam me emisse ancillam matri.

Acan.
Non taces, stultissime?
credet hercle, nam credebat iam mihi.

Char.
Metuo miser,
ne patrem prehendat, ut sit gesta res, suspicio.
hoc quod te rogo responde quaeso.

Acan.
Quaeso quid rogas?

Char.
Num esse amicam suspicari visus est?

Acan.
Non visus est.
quin quicque ut dicebam mihi credebat.

Char.

Verum, ut tibi quidem
visus est.

Acan.
Non, sed credebat.

Char.
Vae mihi misero, nullus sum.
sed quid ego hic in lamentando pereo, ad navem non eo?
sequere.

Acan.
Si istac ibis, commodum obviam venies patri;
postea aspiciet te timidum esse atque exanimatum: ilico
retinebit, rogitabit unde illam emeris, quanti emeris:
timidum temptabit te.

Char.
Hac ibo potius. iam censes patrem
abiisse a portu?

Acan.
Quin ea ego huc praecucurri gratia,
ne te opprimeret imprudentem atque electaret.

Char.
Optime. —

ACT II.

Demipho
Miris modis di ludos faciunt hominibus
mirisque exemplis somnia in somnis danunt.
velut ego nocte hac quae praeteriit proxuma
in somnis egi satis et fui homo exercitus.
mercari visus mihi sum formosam capram;
ei ne noceret quam domi ante habui capram
neu discordarent, si ambae in uno essent loco,
posterius quam mercatus fueram, visus sum
in custodelam simiae concredere.
ea simia adeo post haud multo ad me venit,
male mihi precatur et facit convicium:
ait sése illius opera atque adventu caprae
flagitium et damnum fecisse haud mediocriter;
dicit capram, quam dederam servandam sibi,
suaé uxoris dotem ambedisse oppido.
mi illud videri mirum, ut una illaec capra
uxoris simiai dotem ambederit.
instare factum simia, atque hoc denique
respondet, ni properem illam ab sese abducere,
ad me domum intro ad uxórem ducturum meam.
atque oppido hercle bene velle illi visus sum,
ast non habere cui commendarem capram;
quo magis quid facerem cura cruciabar miser.
interea ad me haedus visust adgredirier,
infit mihi praedicare, sese ab simia
capram abduxisse, et coepit inridere me;
ego énim lugere atque abductam illam aegre pati.
hoc quam ad rem credam pertinere somnium,
nequeo invenire; nisi capram illam suspicor
iam me invenisse quae sit aut quid voluerit.
ad portum hinc abii mane cum luci simul;
postquam id quod volui transegi, atque ego conspicor
navem ex Rhodo quast héri advectus filius;

conlibitumst illuc mihi nescio qui visere:
inscendo in lembum átque ad navem devehor.
atque égo illi aspicio forma eximia mulierem,
filius quam advexit meus matri ancillam suae.
quam ego postquam aspexi, non ita amo ut sani solent
homines, sed eodem pacto ut insani solent.
amavi hercle equidem ego olim in adulescentia,
verum ad hoc exemplum numquam, ut nunc insanio.
unum quidem hercle iam scio, periisse me;
vosmet videte ceterum quanti siem.
nunc hoc profecto sic est: haec illast capra;
verum hercle simia illa atque haedus mihi malum
adportant, atque eos esse quos dicam hau scio.
sed conticiscam, nam eccum it vicinus foras.

Lysimachvs
Profecto ego illunc hircum castrari volo,
ruri qui vobis exhibet negotium.

Dem.
Nec omen illud mihi nec auspicium placet.
quasi hircum metuo ne uxor me castret mea.
atque illius haec nunc simiae partis ferat.

Lys.
I tu hinc ad villam atque istos rastros vilico
Pisto ipsi facito coram ut tradas in manum.
uxori facito ut nunties, negotium
mihi esse in urbe, ne me exspectet; nam mihi
tris hodie litis iudicandas dicito.
ei, et hoc memento dicere.

Servvs
Numquid amplius?

Lys.
Tantumst.

Dem.
Lysimache, salve.

Lys.
Euge, Demipho,
salveto. quid agis? quid fit?

Dem.
Quod miserrumus.

Lys.
Di melius faxint.

Dem.
Di hoc quidem faciunt.

Lys.
Quid est?

Dem.
Dicam, si videam tibi esse óperam aut otium.

Lys.
Quamquam negotiumst, si quid vis, Demipho,
non sum occupatus umquam amico operam dare.

Dem.
Benignitatem tuam mi experto praedicas.
quid tibi ego aetatis videor?

Lys.
Acherunticus,
senex vetus, decrepitus.

Dem.
Pervorse vides.
puer súm, Lysimache, septuennis.

Lys.
Sanun es,
qui puerum te esse dicas?

Dem.
Vera praedico.

Lys.
Modo hercle in mentem venit, quid tu diceres:
senex quom extemplo est, iam nec sentit nec sapit,
aiunt solere eum rusum repuerascere.

Dem.
Immo bis tanto valeo quam valui prius.

Lys.
Bene hercle factum, et gaudeo.

Dem.
Immo si scias,
oculis quoque etiam plus iam video quam prius.

Lys.
Benest.

Dem.
Malae rei dico.

Lys.
Iam istuc non benest.

Dem.
Sed ausimne ego tibi eloqui fideliter?

Lys.
Audacter.

Dem.

Animum advorte.

Lys.
Fiet sedulo.

Dem.
Hodie ire in ludum occepi litterarium,
Lysimache. ternas scio iam.

Lys.
Quid ternas?

Dem.
Amo.

Lys.
Tun capite cano amas, senex nequissime?

Dem.
Si canum seu istuc rutilum sive atrumst, amo.

Lys.
Ludificas nunc tu me hic, opinor, Demipho.

Dem.
Decide collum stanti, si falsum loquor;
vel, ut scias me amare, cape cultrum ac seca
digitum vel aurem vel tu nasum vel labrum:
si movero me seu secari sensero,
Lysimache, auctór sum ut me amando enices.

Lys.
Si umquam vidistis pictum amatorem, em illic est.
nam meo quidem animo vetulus decrepitus senex
tantidemst quasi sit signum pictum in pariete.

Dem.
Nunc tu me, credo, castigare cogitas.

Lys.
Egon té?

Dem.
Nihil est iam quod tu mihi suscenseas:
fecere tale ante alii spectati viri.
humanum amarest, humanum autem ignoscerest:
ne sís me obiurga, hoc non voluntas me impulit.

Lys.
Quin non obiurgo.

Dem.
At ne deteriorem tamen
hoc facto ducas.

Lys.
Egon te? ah, ne di siverint.

D.
Vide sís modo etiam.

L.
Visumst.

D.
Certen?

Lys.
Perdis me.
hic homo ex amore insanit. numquid vis?

Dem.
Vale.

Lys.
Ad portum propero, nam ibi mihi negotium est.

Dem.
Bene ambulato.

Lys.
Bene vale. —

Dem.
Bene sit tibi.
quin mihi quoque etiamst ad portum negotium.
nunc adeo ibo illuc. séd optume gnatum meum
video eccum. opperiar hominem. hoc nunc mihi viso opust,
huic persuadere quo modo potis siem,
ut illam vendat neve det matri suae;
nam ei dono advexe audivi. sed praecauto opust,
ne hic illam me animum adiecisse aliqua sentiat.

Charinvs
Homó me misérior nullúst aeque, opínor,
neque ádvorsa cuí plura sínt sempitérna;
satin quídquid est, quam rem agere óccepi,
proprium nequit mihi evenire quod cupio?
ita míhi mala res aliqua óbicitur,
bonum quaé meum comprimit cónsilium.
míser amicam míhi paravi, ánimi causa, pretio † eripui,
ratús clam patrém me meúm posse habere:
is rescivit et vidit, et perdidit me;
neque is cum roget quid loquar cogitatumst,
ita animi decem in pectore incerti certant.
nec quid corde nunc consili capere possim
scio, tantus cum cura meost error animo,
dum servi mei perplacet mihi consilium,
dum rursum haud placet nec pater potis videtur
induci ut putet matri ancillam emptam esse illam.
nunc si dico ut res est atque illam mihi me
emisse indico, quem ad modum existumet me?
atque illam abstrahat, trans mare hinc venum asportet;
scio saevos quam sit, domo doctus. igitur

hócine est amare? arare mavelim, quam sic amare.
iam hínc olim invitum domo extrusit ab se,
mercatum ire iussit: ibi hoc malum ego inveni.
úbi voluptatem aegritudo vincat, quid ibi inest amoeni?
nequíquam abdidi, abscondidi, abstrusam habebam:
muscast meus pater, nil potest clam illum haberi,
néc sacrum nec tam profanum quicquam est, quin ibi ilico adsit.
nec, qui rebus meis confidam mi ulla spes in corde certast.

Dem.
Quíd illuc est quod solus secum fabulatur filius?
sollicitus mihí nescio qua re videtur.

Char.
Attatae,
meus patér hic quidem est quem video. ibo, adloquar. quid fit, pater?

Dem.
Vnde incedis, quid festinas, gnate mi?

Char.
Recte, pater.

Dem.
Ita volo, sed istúc quid est, tibi quod commutatust color?
numquid tibi dolet?

Char.
Nescio quid meo animost aegre, pater.
poste hac nocte non quievi satis mea ex sententia.

Dem.
Per mare ut vectu's, nunc oculi terram mirantur tui.

Ch.
Magis opinor —

D.

Id est profecto; verum actutum abscesserit.
ergo edepol palles. si sapias, eas ac decumbas domi.

Char.
Otium non est: mandatis rebus praevorti volo.

Dem.
Cras agito, perendie agito.

Char.
Saepe ex te audivi, pater:
rei mandatae omnis sapientis primum praevorti decet.

Dem.
Age igitur; nolo advorsari tuam advorsum sententiam.

Char.
Salvos sum, siquidem ísti dicto solida et perpetuast fides.

Dem.
Quid illuc est quod ille á me solus se in consilium sevocat?
iam nón vereor ne illam me amare hic potuerit resciscere;
quippe haud etiam quicquam inepte feci, amantes ut solent.

Char.
Res adhuc quidem hercle in tutost, nam hunc nescire sat scio
de illa amica; quod si sciret, esset alia oratio.

D.
Quin ego hunc adgredior de illa?

Ch.
Quin ego hinc me amolior?
eo ego, ut quae mandata amicus amicis tradam.

Dem.
Immo mane;
paucula etiam sciscitare prius volo.

Char.
Dic quid velis.

Dem.
Vsquene valuisti?

Char.
Perpetuo recte, dum quidem illic fui;
verum in portum huc ut sum advectus, nescio qui animus mihi dolet.

Dem.
Nausea edepol factum credo; verum actutum abscesserit.
sed quid ais? ecquam tu advexti tuae matri ancillam e Rhodo?

Char.
Advexi.

Dem.
Quid? ea ut videtur mulier?

Ch.
Non edepol mala.

Dem.
Vt moratast?

Char.
Nullam vidi melius mea sententia.

D.
Mihi quidem edepol visast, quom illam vidi.

Ch.
Eho an vidisti, pater?

Dem.
Vidi. verum non ex usu nostrost, neque adeo placet.

Ch.

Qui vero?

D.
Quia †non nostra formam habet dignam domo.
nihil opust nobis ancilla nisi quae texat, quae molat,
lignum caedat, pensum faciat, aedis verrat, vapulet,
quaé habeat cottidianum familiae coctum cibum:
horunc illa nihilum quicquam facere poterit.

Char.
Admodum.
ea causa equidem illam emi, dono quam darem matri meae.

Dem.
Ne duas, neve te advexisse dixeris.

Char.
Di me adiuvant.

Dem.
Labefacto paulatim. verum quod praeterii dicere,
neque illa matrem satis honeste tuam sequi poterit comes,
neque sinam.

Char.
Qui vero?

Dem.
Quia illa forma matrem familias
flagitium sit si sequatur; quando incedat per vias,
contemplent, conspiciant omnes, nutent, nictent, sibilent,
vellicent, vocent, molesti sint; occentent ostium:
impleantur élegeorum meae fores carbonibus.
atque, ut nunc sunt maledicentes homines, uxori meae
mihique obiectent lenocinium facere. nam quid eost opus?

Char.
Hercle qui tu recte dicis, et tibí adsentior.

sed quid illá nunc fiet?

Dem.
Recte. ego emero matri tuae
ancillam viraginem aliquam non malam, forma mala,
ut matrem addecet familias, aut Syram aut Aegyptiam:
ea molet, coquet, conficiet pensum, pinsetur flagro,
neque propter eam quicquam eveniet nostris foribus flagiti.

Char.
Quid si igitur reddatur illi unde empta est?

Dem.
Minime gentium.

Char.
Dixit se redhibere, si non placeat.

Dem.
Nihil istoc opust:
litigari nolo ego usquam, tuam autem accusari fidem;
multo edepol si quid faciendumst facere damni mavolo,
quam opprobramentum aut flagitium muliebre exferri domo.
me tibi illam posse opinor luculente vendere.

Char.
Dum quidem hercle ne minoris vendas quám ego emi, pater.

Dem.
Tace modo: senex est quidam, qui illam mandavit mihi
ut emerem aut ad istanc faciem.

Char.
At mihi quidam adulescens, pater,
mandavit ad illam faciem, ita ut illaec est, emerem sibi.

Dem.
Viginti minis opinor posse me illam vendere.

Char.
At ego si velim, iam dantur septem et viginti minae.

Dem.
At ego —

Char.
Quin ego, inquam —

Dem.
Ah, nescis quid dicturus sum, tace.
tris minas accudere etiam possum, ut triginta sient.

Ch.
Quo vortisti?

D.
Ad illum qui emit.

Ch.
Vbinamst is homo gentium?

Dem.
Eccillum video. iubet quínque me addere etiam nunc minas.

Char.
Hercle illunc divi infelicent, quisquis est.

Dem.
Ibidem mihi
etiam nunc adnutat addam sex minas.

Char.
Septem mihi.

Dem.
Numquam edepol me vincet hodie.

Char.

Commodis poscit, pater.

Dem.
Nequiquam poscit: ego habeo.

Char.
At illic pollicitust prior.

Dem.
Nihili facio.

Char.
Quinquaginta poscit.

Dem.
Non centum datur.
potine ut ne licitere advorsum mei animi sententiam?
maximam hercle habebis praedam: ita ille est, quoi emitur, senex;
sanus non est ex amore illius. quod posces feres.

Char.
Certe edepol adulescens ille, cui ego emo, efflictim perit
eius amore.

Dem.
Multo hercle ille magis senex, si tu scias.

Char.
Numquam edepol fuit neque fiet ille senex insanior
ex amore quam ille adulescens cui ego do hanc operam, pater.

D.
Quiesce, inquam. istanc rém ego recte videro.

C.
Quid ais?

D.

Quid est?

C.
Non ego illám mancupio accepi.

D.
Sed ille illam accipiet. sine.

Char.
Non potes tu lege vendere illam.

Dem.
Ego aliquid videro.

Char.
Post autem communest illa mihi cum álio. qui scio
quid sit ei animi, venirene eam velit an non velit?

Dem.
Ego scio velle.

Char.
At pol ego esse credo aliquem qui non velit.

D.
Quid id mea refert?

C.
Quia illi suam rem esse aequomst in manu.

D.
Quid ais?

C.
Communis mihi illa est cum illo: is hic nunc non adest.

Dem.
Prius respondes quam rogo.

Char.
Prius tú emis quam vendo, pater.
nescio, inquam, velit ille illam necne abalienarier.

Dem.
Quid? illi quoidam qui mandavit tibi si emetur, tum volet,
sí ego emo illi qui mandavit, tum ille nolet? nihil agis.
numquam edepol quisquam illam habebit potius quam ille quem ego volo.

C.
Certumnest?

D.
Censen certum esse? quin ad navem iam hinc eo,
ibi venibit.

Char.
Vin me tecum illo ire?

Dem.
Nolo.

Char.
Non places.

Dem.
Meliust te, quae sunt mandatae res tibi, praevortier.

Char.
Tu prohibes.

Dem.
At me incusato: te fecisse sedulo.
ad portum ne bitas, dico iam tibi.

Char.
Auscultabitur.

Dem.
Ibo ad portum. ne hic resciscat, cauto opust: non ipse emam,
sed Lysimacho amico mandabo. is se ad portum dixerat
ire dudum. me moror quom hic asto. —

Char.
Nullus sum, occidi.

Char.
Pentheum diripuisse aiunt Bacchas: nugas maximas
fuisse credo, praeut quo pacto égo divorsus distrahor.
cur ego vivo? cur non morior? quid mihist in vita boni?
certumst, ibo ad medicum atque ibi me toxico morti dabo,
quando id mi adimitur, qua causa vitam cupio vivere.

Evtychvs
Mane, mane obsecro, Charine.

Char.
Quis me revocat?

Evt.
Eutychus,
tuos amicus et sodalis, simul vicinus proxumus.

Char.
Non tu scis, quantum malarum rerum sustineam.

Evt.
Scio;
omnia ego istaec auscultavi ab ostio, omnem rem scio.

C.
Quid id est quod scis?

E.
Tuos pater volt vendere —

C.
Omnem rem tenes.

Evt.
Tuam amicam.

Char.
Nimium multum scis.

Evt.
Tuis ingratiis.

Char.
Plurimum tu scis. sed qui scis esse amicam illam meam?

Evt.
Tute heri ipsus mihi narrasti.

Char.
Satin ut oblitus fui,
tibi me narravisse?

Evt.
Hau mirumst factum.

Char.
Te nunc consulo.
15 responde: quo leto censes me ut peream potissimum?

Evt.
Non taces? cave tu istuc dixis.

Char.
Quid vis me igitur dicere?

Evt.
Vin patri sublinere pulchre me os tuo?

Char.

Sane volo.

E.
Visne eam ad portum —

C.
Qui potius quam voles?

E.
Atque eximam
mulierem pretio?

C.
Qui potius quam auro expendas?

E.
Vnde erit?

Char.
Achillem orabo, aurum ut mihi det, Hector qui expensus fuit.

Evt.
Sanun es?

Char.
Pol sanus si sim, non te medicum mi expetam.

Evt.
Tanti quanti poscit, vin tanti illam emi?

Char.

Auctarium
adicito vel mille nummum plus quam poscet.

Evt.
Iam tace.
sed quid ais? unde erit argentum quod des, quom poscet pater?

Char.
Invenietur, exquiretur, aliquid fiet; enicas.

Evt.
Iam istuc ‘aliquid fiet’ metuo.

Char.
Quin taces?

Evt.
Muto imperas.

C.
Satin istuc mandatumst?

E.
Potin ut aliud cures?

C.
Non potest.

Evt.
Bene vale.

Char.
Non edepol possum prius quam tu ad me redieris.

E.
Melius sanus sis.

C.
Vale, vince ét me serva.

E.
Ego fecero.
domi maneto me.

Char.
Ergo actutum face cum praeda recipias. —

ACT III.

Lysimachvs
Amíce amico operam dedi: vicinus quod rogavit,
hoc emi mercimonium. mea es tu, sequere sane.
ne plora: nimis stulte facis, oculos corrumpis tales.
quin tibi quidem quod rideas magis est, quam ut lamentere.

Pasicompsa
Amabo ecastor, mi senex, eloquere —

Lys.
Exquire quidvis.

Pas.
Cur emeris me.

Lys.
Tene ego? ut quod imperetur facias,
item quod tu mihi si imperes, ego faciam.

Pas.
Facere certumst
pro copia et sapientia quae te velle arbitrabor.

Lys.
Laboriosi nil tibi quicquam operis imperabo.

Pas.
Namque edepol equidem, mi senex, non didici baiolare
nec pecua ruri pascere nec pueros nutricare.

Lys.
Bona si esse vis, bene erit tibi.

Pas.
Tum pol ego perii misera.

Lys.
Qui?

Pas.
Quia illim unde huc advecta sum, malis bene esse solitumst.

Lys.
Quasi dicas nullam mulierem bonam esse.

Pas.
Haud equidem dico,
nec mos meust ut praedicem quod ego omnis scire credam.

Lys.
Oratio edepol pluris est huius quam quanti haec emptast.
rogare hoc unum te volo.

Pas.
Roganti respondebo.

Lys.
Quid ais tu? quid nomen tibi dicam esse?

Pas.
Pasicompsae.

Lys.
Ex forma nomen inditumst. sed quid ais, Pasicompsa?
possin tu, si usus venerit, subtemen tenue nere?

Pas.
Possum.

Lys.
Si tenue scis, scio te uberius posse nere.

Pas.
De lanificio neminem metuo, una aetate quae sit.

Lys.
Bonam hercle te et frugi arbitror, matura iam † inde aetate
quom scis facere officium tuom, mulier.

Pas.
Pol docta didici.
operam accusari non sinam meam.

Lys.
Em istaec hercle res est.
ovem tibi eccillam dabo, natam annos sexaginta,
peculiarem.

Pas.
Mi senex, tam vetulam?

Lys.
Generis graecist;
eam si curabis, perbonast, tondetur nimium scite.

Pas.
Honoris causa quidquid est quod dabitur gratum habebo.

Lys.
Nunc, mulier, ne tu frustra sis, mea non es, ne arbitrere.

Pas.
Dic igitur quaeso, quoia sum?

Lys.
Tuo ero redempta es rursum;
ego te redemi, ílle mecum oravit.

Pas.
Animus rediit,
si mecum servatur fides.

Lys.

Bono animo es, liberabit
ille te homo: ita edepol deperit, atque hodie primum vidit.

Pas.
Ecastor iam bienniumst, quom mecum rem coe+pit.
nunc, quando amicum te scio esse illius, indicabo.

Lys.
Quid ais tu? iam bienniumst, quom tecum rém habet?

Pas.
Certo;
et intér nos coniuravimus, ego cum illo et ille mecum:
ego cum viro et ílle cum muliere, nisi cum illo aut ille mecum,
neuter stupri causa caput limaret.

Lys.
Di immortales,
etiam cum uxore non cubet?

Pas.
Amabo, án maritust?
neque est neque erit.

Lys.
Nolim quidem. homo hercle periuravit.

Pas.
Nullum adulescentem plus amo.

Lys.
Puer est ille quidem, stulta.
nam illi quidem hau sane diust quom dentes exciderunt.

Pas.
Quid, dentes?

Lys.

Nihil est. sequere sis. hunc me diem unum oravit
ut apud me praehiberem locum, ideo quia uxor rurist. —

Demipho
Tandem impetravi ut egomet me corrumperem:
emptast amica clam uxorem et clam filium.
certumst, antiqua recolam et servibo mihi.
decurso spatio breve quod vitae relicuomst
voluptáte, vino et amore delectavero.
nam hanc se bene habere aetatem nimiost aequius.
adulescens quom sis, tum quom est sanguis integer,
rei tuae quaerundae convenit operam dare;
demum igitur quom sis iam senex, tum in otium
te conloces, dum potes ames: id iam lucrumst
quod vivis. hoc ut dico, factis persequar.
interea tamen huc intro ad me invisam domum:
uxor me exspectat iam dudum esuriens domi;
iam iurgio enicabit, si intro rediero.
verum hercle postremo, utut est, non ibo tamen,
sed hunc vicinum prius conveniam quam domum
redeam; ut mihi aedis aliquas conducat volo,
ubi habitet istaec mulier. atque eccum it foras.

Lysimachvs
Adducam ego illum iam ad te, si convenero.

Dem.
Me dicit.

Lys.
Quid ais, Demipho?

Dem.
Est mulier domi?

Lys.
Quid censes?

Dem.
Quid si visam?

Lys.
Quid properas? mane.

Dem.
Quid faciam?

Lys.
Quod opust facto facito ut cogites.

Dem.
Quid cogitem? equidem hercle opus hoc facto existimo,
ut illo íntro eam.

Lys.
Itane vero, vervex? intro eas?

Dem.
Quid aliud faciam?

Lys.
Prius hoc ausculta, atque ades:
prius etiamst, quod te facere ego aequom censeo.
nam nunc si illuc intro ieris, amplecti voles,
confabulari atque osculari.

Dem.
Tu quidem
meum animum gestas: scis quid acturus siem.

Lys.
Pervorse facies.

Dem.
Quodne ames —

Lys.
Tanto minus.
ieiunitatis plenus, anima foetida,
senex hircosus tu osculere mulierem?
utíne adveniens vomitum excutias mulieri?
scio pol te amare, quom istaec praemonstras mihi.

Dem.
Quid si igitur unum faciam hoc? si censes, coquom
aliquem arripiamus, prandium qui percoquat
apud te hic usque ad vesperum.

Lys.
Em istuc censeo.
nunc tu sapienter loquere atque amatorie.

Dem.
Quid stamus? quin ergo imus atque obsonium
curamus, pulchre ut simus?

Lys.
Equidem te sequor.
atque hercle invenies tu locum illi, si sapis:
nullum hercle praeter hunc diem illa apud med erit.
metuo ego uxórem, cras si rure redierit
ne illam hic offendat.

Dem.
Res parata est, sequere me. —

Charinvs
Súmne ego homo miser, qui nusquam bene queo quiescere?
si domi sum, foris est animus, sin foris sum, animus domist.
ita mi in pectore atque in corde facit amor incendium:
ni ex oculis lacrumae defendant, iam ardeat credo caput.
spem teneo, salutem amisi; redeat an non, nescio:
si opprimit pater quod dixit, exsulatum abiit salus;
sin sodalis quod promisit fecit, non abiit salus.

sed tamen dem si podagrosis pedibus esset Eutychus,
iam a portu rediisse potuit. id illi vitium maxumumst,
quod nimis tardus est advorsum mei animi sententiam.
sed in est, quem currentem video? ípsus est. ibo obviam.
nunc, quod restat, ei disperii: voltus neutiquam huius placet;
tristis incédit (pectus ardet, haereo), quassat caput.

Eutyche.

Evtychvs
Eu, Charine.

Char.
Prius quam recipias anhelitum,
uno verbo eloquere: ubi égo sum? hicine an apud mortuos?

Evt.
Neque apud mortuos neque hic es.

Char.
Salvos sum, immortalitas
mihi data est: hic emit illam, pulchre os sublevit patri.
impetrabilior qui vivat nullus est. dice, obsecro:
si neque hic neque Acherunti sum, úbi sum?

Evt.
Nusquam gentium.

Char.
Disperii, illaec interemit me modó oratio.

Evt.
Odiosast oratio, cum rém agas longinquom loqui.

Char.
Quidquid est, ad capita rerum perveni.

Evt.

Primum omnium:
periimus.

Char.
Quin tu illud potius nuntias quod nescio?

Evt.
Mulier alienata est abs te.

Char.
Eutyché, capital facis.

Evt.
Qui?

Char.
Quia aequalem et sodalem, liberum civem, enicas.

Evt.
Ne di sierint.

Char.
Demisisti gladium in iugulum: iam cadam.

Evt.
Quaeso hercle, animum ne desponde.

Char.
Nullust quem despondeam.
loquere porro aliam malam rem. cui est empta?

Evt.
Nescio.
iam addicta atque abducta erat, quom ad portum venio.

Char.
Vae mihi,
montis tu quidem mali in me ardentis iam dudum iacis.

perge, excrucia, carnufex, quandoquidem occepisti semel.

Evt.
Non tibi istuc mágis dividiaest, quam mihí hodie fuit.

C.
Dic, quis emit?

E.
Nescio hercle.

C.
Em istúcinest operam dare
bonum sodalem?

Evt.
Quid me facere vis?

Char.
Idem quod me vides,
ut pereas. quin percontatu's, hominis quae facies foret
qui illam emisset: eo si pacto posset indagarier
mulier? heu me miserum.

Evt.
Flere omitte, istuc quod nunc agis.

Evt.
Quid ego feci?

Char.
Perdidisti me et fidem mecum tuam.

Evt.
Di sciunt culpam meam istanc non esse ullam.

Char.
Eugepae,

deos absentis testis memoras: quí ego istuc credam tibi?

Evt.
Quia tibi in manu est quod credas, ego quod dicam, id mi in manust.

Char.
De istac ré argutus es, ut par pari respondeas,
ad mandata claudus caecus mutus mancus debilis.
promittebas te os sublinere meo patri: egomet credidi
homini docto rem mandare, is lapidi mando maximo.

Evt.
Quid ego facerem?

Char.
Quid tu faceres? men rogas? requireres,
rogitares quis esset aut unde esset, qua prosapia,
civisne esset an peregrinus.

Evt.
Civem esse aibant Atticum.

Char.
Vbi habitaret invenires saltem, si nomen nequis.

Evt.
Nemo aiebat scire.

Char.
At saltem hóminis faciem exquireres.

Evt.
Feci.

Char.
Qua forma esse aiebant igitur?

Evt.

Ego dicam tibi:
canum, varum, ventriosum, bucculentum, breviculum,
subnigris oculis, oblongis malis, pansam aliquantulum.

Char.
Non hominem mihi, sed thensaurum nescio quem memoras mali.
numquid est quod dicas aliud de illo?

Evt.
Tantum, quod sciam.

Char.
Edepol ne ille oblongis malis mihi dedit magnum malum.
non possum durare, certumst exulatum hinc ire me.
sed quam capiam civitatem, cogito, potissimum:
Megares, Eretriam, Corinthum, Chalcidem, Cretam, Cyprum,
Sicyonem, Cnidum, Zacynthum, Lesbiam, Boeotiam.

Evt.
Cur istuc coeptas consilium?

Char.
Quia enim me adflictat amor.

Evt.
Quid tu ais? quid cum illuc, quo nunc ire paritas, veneris,
sí ibi amare forte occipias atque item eius sit inopia,
iam inde porro aufugies, deinde item illinc, sí item evenerit?
quis modus tibi exílio tandem eveniet, qui finis fugae?
quae patria aut domus tibi stabilis esse poterit? dic mihi.
cedo, si hac urbe abis, amorem te hic relicturum putas?
si id fore ita sat animo acceptum est, certum id, pro certo si habes,
quanto te satiust rus aliquo abire, ibi esse, ibi vivere
adeo dum illius te cupiditas atque amor missum facit?

Char.
Iam dixisti?

Evt.
Dixi.

Char.
Frustra dixti. hoc mihi certissumumst.
eo domum, patrem atque matrem ut meos salutem, postea
clam patrem patria hac effugiam, aut aliquid capiam consili. —

Evt.
Vt corripuit se repente atque abiit. heu misero mihi,
si ille abierit, mea factum omnes dicent esse ignavia.
certumst praeconum iubere iam quantum est conducier,
qui illam investigent, qui inveniant. post ad praetorem ilico
ibo, orabo, ut conquaestores det mi in vicis omnibus;
nam mihi nil relicti quicquam áliud iam esse intellego. —

ACT IV.

Dorippa
Quoniam a viro ad me rus advenit nuntius,
rus non iturum, feci ego ingenium meum,
reveni, ut illum persequar qui me fugit.
sed anum non video consequi nostram Syram.
atque eccam incedit tandem. quin is ocius?

Syra
nequeo mecastor, tantum hoc onerist quod fero.

Dor.
Quid oneris?

Syr.
Annos octoginta et quattuor;
et eodem accedit servitus, sudor, sitis:
simul haec quae porto deprimunt.

Dor.
Aliquid cedo
qui hánc vicini nostri áram augeam.
da sane hanc virgam lauri. abi tu intro.

Syr.
Eo. —

Dor.
Apollo, quaeso te, ut des pacem propitius,
salutem et sanitatem nostrae familiae,
meoque ut parcas gnato pace propitius.

Syra
Disperii, perii misera, vae miserae mihi.

Dor.

Satin tu sana es, obsecro? quid eiulas?

Syr.
Dorippa, mea Dorippa.

Dor.
Quid clamas, obsecro?

Syr.
Nescio quaest mulier intus hic in aedibus.

Dor.
Quid, mulier?

Syr.
Mulier meretrix.

Dor.
Veron serio?

Syr.
Nimium scis sapere, ruri quae non manseris.
quamvis insipiens poterat persentiscere

...

illam esse amicam tui viri bellissumi.

Dor.
Credo mecastor.

Syr.
Ei hac mecum, ut videas semul
tuam Alcumenam paelicem, Iuno mea. —

Dor.
Ecastor vero istuc eo quantum potest. —

Lysimachvs

Parumne ést malai rei, quod amat Demipho,
ni sumptuosus insuper etiam siet?
decem sí vocasset summos ad cenam viros,
nimium obsonavit. sed coquos, quasi in mari
solét hortator remiges hortarier,
ita hortabatur. egomet conduxi coquom.
sed eum demiror non venire, ut iusseram.
sed quinam hinc a nobis exit? aperitur foris.

Dorippa
Miserior mulier me nec fiet, nec fuit,
tali viro quae nupserim. heu miserae mihi.
em quoi te et tua, quae tu habeas, commendes viro,
em quoi decem talenta dotis detuli,
haec ut viderem, ut ferrem has contumelias.

Lys.
Perii hercle, rure iam rediit uxor mea:
vidisse credo mulierem in aedibus.
sed quae loquatur exaudire hinc non queo.
accedam propius.

Dor.
Vae miserae mi.

Lys.
Immo mihi.

Dor.
Disperii.

Lys.
Equidem hercle oppido perii miser.
vidit. ut te omnes, Demipho, di perduint.

Dor.
Pol hoc est, ire quod rus meus vir noluit.

Lys.
Quid nunc ego faciam nisi uti ádeam atque adloquar?
iubet salvere suos vir uxorem suam.
urbani fiunt rustici?

Dor.

Pudicius
faciunt, quam ílli qui non fiunt rustici.

Lys.
Num quid delinquont rustici?

Dor.
Ecastor minus
quam urbani, et multo minus mali quaerunt sibi.

Lys.
Quid autem urbani deliquerunt? dic mihi,
cupio hercle scire.

Dor.
Sed tu me temptas sciens.
quoia illa mulier intust?

Lys.
Vidistine eam?

Dor.
Vidi.

Lys.
Quoia ea sit rogitas?

Dor.
Resciscam tamen.

Lys.

Vin dicam quoiast? illa — illa edepol — vae mihi,
nescio quid dicam.

Dor.
Haeres.

Lys.
Haud vidi magis.

Dor.
Quin dicis?

Lys.
Quin si liceat —

Dor.
Dictum oportuit.

Lys.
Non possum, ita instas; urges quasi pro noxio.

Dor.
Scio, innóxiu's.

Lys.
Audacter quam vis dicito.

Dor.
Dic igitur.

Lys.
Dicam.

Dor.
At qui dicundum est tamen.

Lys.
Illast — etiam vis nomen dicam?

Dor.
Nihil agis,
manufesto teneo in noxia.

Lys.
Qua noxia?
ista quidem illa est.

Dor.
Quae illa est?

Lys.
Illa —

Dor.
†Iohia

Lys.
Iam — si nihil usus esset, iam non dicerem.

Dor.
Non tu scis quae sit illa?

Lys.
Immo iam scio:
de istac sum iudex captus.

Dor.
Iudex? iam scio:
nunc tu in consilium istam advocavisti tibi.

Lys.
Immo sic: séquestro mihi datast.

Dor.
Intellego.

Lys.

Nihil hercle istius quicquam est.

Dor.
Numero purigas.

Lys.
Nimium negoti repperi. enim vero haereo.

Cocvs
Agite ite actutum, nam mi amatori seni
coquendast cena. átque, quom recogito,
nobis coquendast, non quoi conducti sumus.
nam quí amat quod amat sí habet, id habet pro cibo:
videre, amplecti, ósculari, álloqui;
sed nos confido onustos redituros domum.
ite hac. sed eccum qui nos conduxit senex.

Lys.
Ecce autem perii, coquos adest.

Coc.
Advenimus.

Lys.
Abi.

Coc.
Quid, abeam?

Lys.
St, abi.

Coc.
Abeam?

Lys.
Abi.

Coc.
Non estis cenaturi?

Lys.
Iam saturi sumus.

Coc.
Sed —

Lys.
Intérii.

Dor.
Quid ais tu? etiamne haec illi tibi
iusserunt ferri, quos inter iudex datu's?

Coc.
Haecin tua est amica, quam dudum mihi
te amare dixti, quom obsonabas?

Lys.
Non taces?

Coc.
Satis scítum filum mulieris. verum hercle anet.

Lys.
Abin díerectus?

Coc.
Haud malast.

Lys.
At tu malu's.

Coc.
Scitam hercle opinor concubinam hanc.

Lys.

Non abis?
non ego sum qui te dudum conduxi.

Coc.
Quid est?
immo hercle tu istic ipsus.

Lys.
Vae misero mihi.

Coc.
Nempe uxor rurist tua, quam dudum dixeras
te odisse aeque atque anguis.†

Lys.
Egone istuc dixi tibi?

Coc.
Mihi quidem hercle.

Lys.
Ita me amabit Iuppiter,
uxor, ut ego illud numquam dixi.

Dor.
Etiam negas?
palam istaec fiunt, te me odisse.

Lys.
Quin nego.

Coc.
Non, non te odisse aiebat, sed uxorem suam;
et uxórem suam ruri esse aiebat.

Lys.
Haec east.
quid mihi molestu's?

Coc.
Quia novisse me negas;
nisi metuis tu istanc.

Lys.
Sapio, nam mihi unicast.

Coc.
Vin me experiri?

Lys.
Nolo.

Coc.
Mercedem cedo.

Lys.
Cras petito; dabitur. nunc abi.

Dor.
Heu miserae mihi.

Lys.
Nunc ego verum illud verbum esse experior vetus:
aliquid mali esse propter vicinum malum.

Coc.
Cur hic astamus? quin abimus? incommodi
si quid tibi evénit, id non est culpa mea.

Lys.
Quin me eradicas miserum.

Coc.
Scio iam quid velis:
nempe me hínc abire vis.

Lys.

Volo inquam.

Coc.
Abibitur.
drachmam dato.

Lys.
Dabitur.

Coc.
Dari ergo sis iube.
dari pótest interea dum illi ponunt.

Lys.
Quin abis?
potine ut molestus ne sis?

Coc.
Agite apponite
obsonium istuc ante pedes illi seni.
haec vasa aut mox aut cras iubebo abs te peti
sequimíni. —

Lys.
Fortasse te illum mirari coquom,
quod venit atque haec attulit. dicam quid est.

Dor.
Non miror si quid damni facis aut flagiti.
nec pol ego patiar, sic me nuptam tam male
measque in aedis sic scorta obductarier.
Syra, i, rogato meum patrem verbis meis,
ut veniat ad me iam simul tecum. —

Syr.
Eo. —

Lys.

Nescis negoti quid sit, uxor, obsecro.
conceptis verbis iam iusiurandum dabo,
me numquam quicquam cum illa — iamne abiit Syra?
perii hercle. ecce autem haec abiit. vae misero mihi.
at te, vicine, di deaeque perduint,
cum tua amíca cumque amationibus.
suspicione implevit me indignissime,
concivit hostis dómi: uxór acerrumast.
ibo ad forum atque haec Demiphoni éloquar,
me istanc capillo protracturum esse in viam,
nisi hinc abducit quo volt ex hisce aedibus.
uxor, heus uxor, quamquam tu irata es mihi,
iubeas, si sapias, haec intró auferrier:
eadem licebit mox cenare rectius. —

Syra
Era quo me misit, ad patrem, non est domi:
rus abiisse aibant. nunc domum renuntio.

Evtychvs
Defessus sum urbem totam pervenarier:
nihil investigo quicquam de illa muliere.
sed mater rure rediit, nam video Syram
astare ante aedis. Syra.

Syr.
Quis est qui me vocat?

Evt.
Erus atque alumnus tuos sum.

Syr.
Salve, alumne mi.

Evt.
Iam mater rure rediit? responde mihi.

Syr.

Sua quidem salute ac familiai maxuma.

Evt.
Quid istúc negotist?

Syr.
Tuos pater bellissumus
amicam adduxit intro in aedis.

Evt.
Quo modo?

Syr.
Adveniens mater rure eam offendit domi.

Evt.
Pol haud censebam istarum esse operarum patrem.
etiam nunc mulier intust?

Syr.
Etiam.

Evt.
Sequere me. —

Syr.
Ecastor lege dura vivont mulieres
multoque iniquiore miserae quam viri.
nam si vir scortum duxit clam uxorem suam,
id si rescivit uxor, impunest viro;
uxor virum si clam domo egressa est foras,
viro fit causa, exigitur matrimonio.
utinam lex esset eadem quae uxori est viro;
nam uxor contenta est, quae bona est, uno viro:
qui minus vir una uxore contentus siet?
ecastor faxim, si itidem plectantur viri,
si quis clam uxorem duxerit scortum suam,
ut illae éxiguntur quae in se culpam commerent,

plures viri sint vidui quam nunc mulieres. —

ACT V.

Charinvs
Límen superum ínferumque, salve, simul autem vale:
hunc hodie postremum extollo mea domo patria pedem.
usus, fructus, victus, cultus iam mihi harunc aedium
interemptust, interfectust, alienatust. occidi.
di penates meum parentum, familiai Lar pater,
vobis mando, meum parentum rem bene ut tutemini.
ego mihi alios deos penatis persequar, alium Larem,
aliam urbem, aliam civitatem: ab Atticis abhorreo;
nám ubi mores deteriores increbrescunt in dies,
ubi qui amici, qui infideles sint nequeas pernoscere
ubique id eripiatur, animo tuo quod placeat maxume,
ibi quidem si regnum detur, non cupita est civitas.

Evtychvs
Divom atque hominum quae spectatrix atque era eadem es hominibus,
spem speratam quom obtulisti hanc mihi, tibi grates ago.
ecquisnam deus est, qui mea nunc laetus laetitia fuat?
domi erát quod quaeritabam: sex sodales repperi,
vitam, amícitiam, civitátem, laetitiam, ludum, iocum;
eorum inventu res simitu pessumas pessum dedi,
iram, inimicitiam, maerorem, lacrumas, exilium, inopiam
solitudinem, stultitiam, exitium, pertinaciam.
date, di, quaeso conveniundi mi eius celerem copiam.

Char.
Apparatus sum ut videtis: abicio superbiam;
egomet mihi comes, calator, equos, agaso, ármiger,
egomet sum mihi imperator, idem egomet mihi oboedio,
egomet mihi fero quod ususst. o Cupido, quantus es.
nam tu quemvis confidentem facile tuis factis facis,
eundem ex confidente actutum diffidentem denuo.

Evt.
Cogito quonam égo illum curram quaeritatum.

Char.
Certa res
me usque quaerere illam, quoquo hínc abductast gentium;
neque mihi ulla obsistet amnis nec mons neque adeo mare,
nec calor nec frigus metuo neque ventum neque grandinem;
imbrem perpetiar, laborem sufferam, solem, sitim;
non concedam neque quiescam úsquam noctu neque dius
prius profecto quam aut amicam aut mortem investigavero.

Evt.
Nescio quóia vox ad aures mi advolavit.

Char.

Invoco
vos, Lares viales, ut me bene tutetis.

Evt.
Iuppiter,
estne illic Charinus?

Char.
Cives, bene valete.

Evt.

Ilico
sta, Charine.

Char.
Qui me revocat?

Evt.
Spes, Salus, Victoria.

Ch.
Quid me voltis?

E.
Ire tecum.

Ch.
Alium comitem quaerite,
non amittunt hi me comites qui tenent.

Evt.
Qui sunt ei?

Char.
Cura, miseria, aegritudo, lacrumae, lamentatio.

Evt.
Repudia istos comites atque hoc respice et revortere.

Char.
Siquidem mecum fabulari vis, subsequere.

Evt.
Sta ilico.

Char.
Male facis, properantem qui me commorare. sol abit.

Evt.
Si huc item properes ut istuc properas, facias rectius:
huc secundus ventus nunc est; cape modo vorsoriam:
hic favonius serenust, istic auster imbricus;
hic facit tranquillitatem, iste omnis fluctus conciet.
recipe te ad terram, Charine, huc. nonne ex advorso vides,
nubis atra imberque ut instat? aspice ad sinisteram,
caelum ut est splendore plenum atque ut dei istuc vorti iubent?

Char.

Religionem illic mi obiecit: recipiam me illuc.

Evt.
Sapis.
o Charine, contra pariter fer gradum et confer pedem,
porge bracchium.

Char.
Prehende. iam tenes?

Evt.
Teneo.

Char.
Tene.

Evt.
Quo nunc ibas?

Char.
Exulatum.

Evt.
Quid ibi faceres?

Char.
Quod miser.

Evt.
Ne pave, restituam iam ego te in gaudio antiquo ut sies.
maxime quod vis audire, id audies, quod gaudeas
sta ilico, amicus aduenio multum beneuolens.
tuam amicam —

Ch.
Quid eam?

E.

Vbi sit ego scio.

Ch.
Tune, obsecro?

Evt.
Sanam et salvam.

Char.
Vbi eam salvam?

Evt.
Ego scio.

Char.
Ego me mavelim.

Evt.
Potin ut animo sis tranquillo?

Char.
Quid si mi animus fluctuat?

Evt.
Ego istum in tranquillo quieto tuto sistam: ne time.

Char.
Obsecro te, loquere propere ubi sit, ubi eam videris.
quid taces? dic. enicas me miserum tua reticentia.

Evt.
Non longe hinc abest a nobis.

Char.
Quin ergo commostras, si vides?†

Evt.
Non video hercle nunc, sed vidi modo.

Char.
Quin égo videam facis?

Evt.
Faciam.

Char.
Longum istuc amantist.

Evt.
Etiam metuis? omnia
commonstrabo. amicior mihi nullus vivit atque is est
qui illam habet, neque est quoi magis me vélle melius aequóm siet.

Char.
Non curo istunc, de illa quaero.

Evt.
De illa ergo ego dico tibi.
sane hoc non in mentem venit dudum, ut ubi sit dicerem.

Char.
Dic igitur, ubi illa est?

Evt.
In nostris aedibus.

Char.
Aedis probas,
si tu vera dicis; pulchre aédificatas arbitro.
sed qui ego istúc credam? vidistin an de audito nuntias?

E.
Egomet vidi.

Ch.
Quis eam adduxit ad vos?

E.
Vt inique rogas.
quid tua refert, qui cum istac venerit?

Char.
Dum istic siet.
vera dicis?

Evt.
Nil, Charine, te quidem quicquam pudet;
est profecto.

Char.
Opta ergo ob istunc nuntium quid vis tibi.

Evt.
Quid si optabo?

Char.
Deos orato ut eius faciant copiam.

Evt.
Derides.

Char.
Servata res est demum, si illam videro.
sed quin ornatum hunc reicio? heus, aliquis actutum huc foras
exite illinc, pallium mi ecferte.

Evt.
Em, nunc tu mihi places.

Char.
Optume advenis, pueré, cape chlamydem atque istic sta ilico,
ut, si haec non sint vera, inceptum hoc itiner perficere exsequar.

Evt.
Non mihi credis?

Char.
Omnia equidem credo quae dicis mihi.
sed quin intro ducis me ad eam, ut videam?

Evt.
Paulisper mane.

Ch.
Quid, manebo?

E.
Tempus non est intro eundi.

Ch.
Enicas.

Evt.
Non opus est, inquam, nunc intro te ire.

Char.
Responde mihi,
qua causa?

Evt.
Operae non est.

Char.
Cur?

Evt.
Quia non est illi commodum.

Char.
Itane? commodum illi non est, quae me amat, quam ego contra amo?
omnibus hic ludificatur me modis. ego stultior,
qui isti credam. commoratur. chlamydem sumam denuo.

Evt.

Mane parumper atque haec audi.

Char.
Cape sis, puere, hoc pallium.

Evt.
Mater irata est patri vehementer, quia scortum sibi
ob oculos adduxerit in aedis, dum ruri ipsa abest:
suspicatur illam amicam esse illi.

Char.
Sonam sustuli.

Evt.
Eam rem nunc exquirit intus.

Char.
Iam machaerast in manu.

Evt.
Nam si eo ted intro ducam —

Char.
Tollo ampullam atque hinc eo.

Evt.
Mane, mane, Charine.

Char.
Erras, me decipere haud potes.

Evt.
Neque edepol volo.

Char.
Quín tu ergo itiner exsequi meum me sinis?

Evt.
Non sino.

Char.
Egomet me moror. tu puere, abi hinc intro ocius.
iam in currum escendi, iam lora ín manus cepi meas.

Evt.
Sanus non es.

Char.
Quin, pedes, vos in curriculum conicitis
in Cyprum recta, quandoquidem pater mihi exilium parat?

Evt.
Stultus es, noli istuc quaeso dicere.

Char.
Certum exsequist,
operam ut sumam ad pervestigandum, ubi sit illaec.

Evt.
Quin domist.

Char.
Nam hic quod dixit, id mentitust.

Evt.
Vera dixi equidem tibi.

Char.
Iam Cyprum veni.

Evt.
Quin sequere, ut illam videas quam expetis.

Char.
Percontatus non inveni.

Evt.
Matris iam iram neglego.

Char.
Porro proficiscor quaesitum. nunc perveni Chalcidem;
video ibi hospitem Zacyntho, dico quid eo advenerim,
rogito quis eam vexerit, quis habeat si íbi indaudiverit.

Evt.
Quin tu istas omittis nugas ac mecum huc intro ambulas?

Char.
Hospes respondit, Zacynthi ficos fieri non malas.

Evt.
Nil mentitust.

Char.
Sed de amica se indaudivisse autumat,
hic Athenis esse.

Evt.
Calchas iste quidem Zacynthiust.

Char.
Navem conscendo, proficiscor ilico. iam sum domi,
iam redii ex exilio. salve, mi sodalis Eutyche:
ut valuisti? quid parentes mei? valent mater pater?
bene vocas, benigne dicis: cras apud te, nunc domi.
sic decet, sic fieri oportet.

Evt.
†Eloque ni somnias.
hic homo non sanust.

Char.
Medicari amicus quin properas mihi?

Evt.
Sequere sis.

Char.
Sequor.

Evt.
Clementer quaeso, calces deteris.
audin tu?

Char.
Iam dudum audivi.

Evt.
Pacem componi volo
meo patri cum matre: nam nunc est irata —

Char.
I modo.

Evt.
Propter istanc.

Char.
I modo.

Evt.
Ergo cura.

Char.
Quin tu ergo i modo.
tam propitiam reddam, quam quom propitiast Iuno Iovi. —

Demipho
Quasi tu numquam quicquam adsimile húius facti feceris.

Lysimachvs
Edepol numquam; cavi ne quid facerem. vix vivo miser.
nam mea uxor propter illam tota in fermento iacet.

Dem.

At ego expurigationem habebo, ut ne suscenseat.

Lys.
Sequere me. sed exeuntem filium video meum.

Evtychvs
Ad patrem ibo, ut matris iram sibi esse sedatam sciat.
iam redeo.

Lys.
Placet principium. quid agis? quid fit, Eutyche?

Evt.
Optima opportunitate ambo advenistis.

Lys.
Quid rei est?

Evt.
Vxor tíbi placida ét placatast. cette dextras nunciam.

Lys.
Di me servant.

Evt.
Tibi amicam ésse nullam nuntio.

Dem.
Di te perdant. quid negotist nam, quaeso, istuc?

Evt.
Eloquar.
animum advortite igitur ambo.

Dem.
Quin tibi ambo operam damus.

Evt.
Qui bono sunt genere nati, si sunt ingenio malo,

suapte culpa genere sapiunt, genus ingenio ímprobant.

Dem.
Verum hic dicit.

Lys.
Tibi ergo dicit.

Evt.
Eo illud est verum magis.
nam te istac aetate haud aequom filio fuerat tuo
adulescenti amanti amicam eripere emptam argento suo.

Dem.
Quid tu ais? Charini amicast illa?

Evt.
Vt dissimulat malus.

Dem.
Ille quidem illam sese ancillam matri emisse dixerat.

Evt.
Propterea igitur tu mercatu's, novos amator, vetus puer?

Lys.
Optume hercle, perge tú, ego ádsistam hinc altrinsecus.
quibus est dictis dignus, usque oneremus ambo.

Dem.
Nullus sum.

Lys.
Filio suo qui innocenti fecit tantam iniuriam.

Evt.
Quem quidem hercle ego, in exilium cum iret, redduxi domum;
nam ibat exulatum.

Dem.
An abiit?

Lys.
Etiam loquere, larua?
temperare istac aetate istis decebat artibus.

Dem.
Fateor, deliqui profecto.

Evt.
Etiam loquere, larua?
vacuom esse istac ted aetate hís decebat noxiis.
itidem ut tempus anni, aetatem aliam áliud factum condecet;
nam si istuc ius est, senecta aetate scortari senes,
ubi locist res summa nostra publica?

Dem.
Ei, perii miser.

Lys.
Adulescentes rei agendae isti magis solent operam dare.

Dem.
Iam obsecro hercle vobis habete cum porcis, cum fiscina.

Evt.
Redde illi.

Dem.
Sibi habeat, iam ut volt per me sibi habeat licet.

Evt.
Temperi edepol, quoniam ut aliter facias non est copia.

Dem.
Supplici sibi sumat quid volt ipse ob hanc iniuriam,
modo pacem faciatis oro, ut ne mihi iratus siet.

si hercle scivissem sive adeo ioculo dixisset mihi,
se illam amare, numquam facerem ut illam amanti abducerem.
Eutyche, ted oro, sodalis eius es, sérva et subveni:
hunc senem para me clientem; memorem dices benefici.

Lys.
Ora ut ignoscat delictis tuis atque adulescentiae.

Dem.
Pergin tu autem? heia, superbe invehere. spero ego mihi quoque
tempus tale eventurum, ut tibi gratiam referam parem.

Lys.
Missas iam égo istas artis feci.

Dem.
Et quidem ego dehinc iam.

Evt.
Nihil agis:
consuetudine animus rursus te huc inducet.

Dem.
Obsecro,
satis iam ut habeatís. quin loris caedite etiam, si lubet.

Lys.
Recte dicis. sed istuc uxor faciet, quom hoc resciverit.

Dem.
Nihil opust resciscat.

Evt.
Quid istic? non resciscet, ne time.
eamus intro, non utibilest hic locus, factis tuis,
dum memoramus, arbitri ut sint qui praetereant per vias.

Dem.

Hercle qui tu recte dicis: eadem brevior fabula
erit. eamus.

Evt.
Hic est intus filius apud nos tuos.

Dem.
Optumest. illac per hortum nos domum transibimus.

Lys.
Eutyche, hanc volo prius rém agi, quam meum intró refero pedem.

Evt.
Quid istuc est?

Lys.
Suam quisque homo rem meminit. responde mihi:
certon scis non suscensere mihi tuam matrem?

Evt.
Scio.

Lys.
Vide.

Evt.
Mea fide.

Lys.
Satis habeo. sed quaeso hercle, etiam vide.

Evt.
Non mihi credis?

Lys.
Immo credo, sed tamen metuo miser.

Dem.
Eamus intro.

Evt.
Immo dicamus senibus legem censeo,
prius quam abeámus, qua se lege teneant contentique sint.
annos gnatus sexaginta quí erit, si quem scibimus
si maritum sive hercle adeo caelibem scortarier,
cúm eo nos hac lege agemus: inscitum arbitrabimur,
et per nos quidem hercle egebit qui suom prodegerit.
neu quisquam posthac prohibeto ádulescentem filium
quin amet et scortum ducat, quod bono fiat modo;
siquis prohibuerit, plus perdet clam quasi praehibuerit palam.
haec adeó ut ex hac nocte primum lex teneat senes.
bene valete; atque, adulescentes, haec si vobis lex placet,
ob senum hercle industriam vos aequom est clare plaudere.

MILES GLORIOSUS

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ACT I.

Pyrgopolynices
Curate ut splendor meo sit clupeo clarior
quam solis radii esse olim quom sudumst solent,
ut, ubi usus veniat, contra conserta manu
praestringat oculorum aciem in ácie hostibus.
nam ego hanc machaeram mihi consolari volo,
ne lamentetur neve animum despondeat,
quia se iam pridem feriatam gestitem,
quae misera gestit † et fratrem facere ex hostibus.
sed ubi Artotrogus hic est?

Artotrogvs
Stat propter virum
fortem atque fortunatum et forma regia;
tum bellatorem — Mars haud ausit dicere
neque aequiperare suas virtutes ad tuas.

Pyrg.
Quemne ego servavi in campis Curculioniis,
ubi Bumbomachides Clutomistaridysarchides
erat imperator summus, Neptuni nepos?

Art.
Memini. nempe illum dicis cum armis aureis,
cuius tú legiones difflavisti spiritu,
quasi ventus folia aut paniculum tectorium.

Pyrg.
Istuc quidem edepol nihil est.

Art.
Nihil hercle hoc quidemst
praeut alia dicam — quae tu numquam feceris.
periuriorem hoc hominem si quis viderit
aut gloriarum pleniorem quam illic est,

me sibi habeto, ego me mancupio dabo;
nisi unum, epityrum estur insanum bene.

Pyrg.
Vbi tu es?

Art.
Eccum. edepol vel elephanto in India,
quo pacto ei pugno praefregisti bracchium.

Pyrg.
Quid, bracchium?

Art.
Illud dicere volui, femur.

Pyrg.
At indíligenter iceram.

Art.
Pol si quidem
conisus esses, per corium, per viscera
perque os elephanti transmineret bracchium.

Pyrg.
Nolo istaec hic nunc.

Art.
Ne hercle operae pretium quidemst
mihi te narrare tuas qui virtutes sciam.
venter creat omnis hasce aerumnas: auribus
peraurienda sunt, ne dentes dentiant,
et adsentandumst quidquid hic mentibitur.

Pyrg.
Quid illúc quod dico?

Art.

Ehem, scío iam quid vis dicere.
factum hercle est, memini fieri.

Pyrg.
Quid id est?

Art.
Quidquid est.

Pyrg.
Habes —

Art.
Tabellas vis rogare? habeo, et stilum.

Pyrg.
Facete advortis tuom animum ad animum meum.

Art.
Novisse mores tuos me meditate decet
curamque adhibere, ut praeolat mihi quod tu velis.

Pyrg.
Ecquid meministi?

Art.
Memini: centum in Cilicia
et quinquaginta, centum in Scytholatronia,
triginta Sardos, sexaginta Macedones
† sunt homines quos tu occidisti uno die.

Pyrg.
Quanta istaec hominum summast?

Art.
Septem milia.

Pyrg.

Tantum esse oportet. recte rationem tenes.

Art.
At nullos habeo scriptos: sic memini tamen.

Pyrg.
Edepol memoria es optuma.

Art.
Offae monent.

Pyrg.
Dum tale facies quale adhuc, assiduo edes,
communicabo semper te mensa mea.

Art.
Quid ín Cappadocia, ubi tu quingentos simul,
ni hebes machaera foret, uno ictu occideras?

Pyrg.
At peditastelli quia erant, sivi viverent.

Art.
Quid tibi ego dicam, quód omnes mortales sciunt,
Pyrgopolynicem te unum in terra vivere
virtute et forma et factis invictissumum?
amant ted omnes mulieres, neque iniuria,
qui sis tam pulcher; vel illae quae here pallio
me reprehenderunt.

Pyrg.
Quid eae dixerunt tibi?

Art.
Rogitabant: ‘hicine Achilles est?’ inquit mihi.
‘immo eius frater’ inquam ‘est’. ibi illarum altera
‘ergo mecastor pulcher est’ inquit mihi
“et liberalis. vide caesaries quam decet.

ne illae sunt fortunatae quae cum isto cubant.”

Pyrg.
Itane aibant tandem?

Art.
Quaen me ambae obsecraverint,
ut te hodie quasi pompam illa praeterducerem?

Pyrg.
Nimiast miseria nimis pulchrum esse hominem.

Art.
Immo itast.
molestaé sunt: orant, ambiunt, exobsecrant
videre ut liceat, ad sese arcessi iubent,
ut tuo non liceat dare operam negotio.

Pyrg.
Videtur tempus esse, ut eamus ad forum,
ut in tabellis quos consignavi hic heri
latrones, ibus denumerem stipendium.
nam rex Seleucus me opere oravit maxumo,
ut sibi latrones cogerem et conscriberem.
regi hunc diem mihi operam decretumst dare.

Art.
Age eamus ergo.

Pyrg.
Sequimini, satellites. —

ACT II.

Palaestrio
Mihi ad enarrandum hoc argumentum est comitas,
si ad auscultandum vostra erit benignitas;
qui autem auscultare nolet, exsurgat foras,
ut sit ubi sedeat ille qui auscultare volt.
nunc qua adsedistis causa in festivo loco,
comoediai quam nos acturi sumus
et argumentum et nomen vobis eloquar.
Alazon Graece huic nomen est comoediae,
id nos Latine gloriosum dicimus.
hoc oppidum Ephesust; illest miles meus erus,
qui hinc ad forum abiit, gloriosus, impudens,
stercoreus, plenus periuri atque adulteri.
ait sése ultro omnis mulieres sectarier:
is deridiculost, quaqua incedit, omnibus.
itaque hic meretrices, labiis dum ductant eum,
maiorem partem videas valgis saviis.
nam ego hau diu apud hunc servitutem servio;
id volo vos scire, quo modo ad hunc devenerim
in servitutem ab eo cui servivi prius.
date operam, nam nunc argumentum exordiar.
erat erus Athenis mihi adulescens optumus;
is amabat meretricem ... matre Athenis Atticis,
et illa íllum contra; qui est amor cultu optumus.
is publice legatus Naupactum fuit
magnai rei publicai gratia.
interibi hic miles forte Athenas advenit,
insinuat sese ad illam amicam eri †
occepit eius matri suppalparier
vino, ornamentis opiparisque obsoniis,
itaque intimum ibi se miles apud lenam facit.
ubi primum evenit militi huic occasio,
sublinit os illi lenae, matri mulieris,
quam erus méus amabat; nám is illius filiam

conicit in navem miles clam matrem suam,
eamque húc invitam mulierem in Ephesum advehit.
ubi amicam erilem Athenis avectam scio,
ego quantum vivos possum mihi navem paro,
inscendo, ut eam rem Naupactum ad erum nuntiem.
ubi sumus provecti in altum, fit quod di volunt,
capiunt praedones navem illam ubi vectus fui:
prius périi quam ad erum veni, quo ire occeperam.
ille quí me cepit dat me huic dono militi.
hic postquam in aedis me ad se deduxit domum,
video illam amicam erilem, Athenis quae fuit.
ubi contra aspexit me, oculis mihi signum dedit,
ne se appellarem; deinde, postquam occasio est,
conqueritur mecum mulier fortunas suas:
ait sése Athenas fugere cupere ex hac domu,
sese illum amare meum erum, Athenis qui fuit,
neque peius quemquam odisse quam istum militem.
ego quoniam inspexi mulieris sententiam,
cepi tabellas, consignavi, clanculum
dedi mércatori cuidam, qui ad illum deferat
meum erum, qui Athenis fuerat, qui hanc amaverat,
ut is huc veniret. is non sprevit nuntium;
nam et venit et is in proximo hic devertitur
apud suom paternum hóspitem, lepidum senem;
isque illi amanti suo hospiti morem gerit
nosque opera consilioque adhortatur, iuvat.
itaque ego paravi hic intus magnas machinas,
qui amantis una inter se facerem convenas.
nam unum conclave, concubinae quod dedit
miles, quo nemo nisi eapse inferret pedem,
in eo conclavi égo perfodi parietem,
qua commeatus clam esset hinc huc mulieri;
et sene sciente hoc feci: is consilium dedit.
nam meus conservos est homo haud magni preti,
quem concubinae miles custodem addidit.
ei nos facetis fabricis et doctis dolis
glaucumam ob oculos obiciemus eumque ita

faciemus ut quod viderit ne viderit.
et mox ne erretis, haec duarum hodie vicem
suam et hinc et illinc mulier feret imaginem,
atque eadem erit, verum alia esse adsimulabitur.
ita sublinetur os custodi mulieris.
sed foris concrepuit hinc a vicino sene;
ipse exit: hic illest lepidus quem dixi senex.
Periplectomenvs
Ni hércle diffregéritis talos pósthac quemque in tégulis
videritis alienum, ego vostra faciam latera lorea.
mi equidem iam arbitri vicini sunt, meae quid fiat domi,
ita per impluvium intro spectant. nunc adeo edico omnibus:
quemque a milite hoc videritis hominem in nostris tegulis,
extra unum Palaestrionem, huc deturbatote in viam.
quod ille gallinam aut columbam se sectari aut simiam
dicat, disperiistis ni usque ad mortem male mulcassitis.
atque adeo ut ne legi fraudem faciant aleariae,
adcuratote ut sine talis domi agitent convivium.

Pal.
Nescio quid malefactum a nostra hic familiast, quantum audio:
ita hic senex talos elidi iussit conservis meis;
sed me excepit: nihili facio, quid illis faciat ceteris.
adgrediar hominem.

Per.
Estne advorsum hic qui advenit Palaestrio?

Pal.
Quid agis, Periplectomene?

Per.
Hau multos homines, si optandum foret,
nunc videre et convenire quam te mavellem.

Pal.
Quid est?

quid tumultuas cum nostra familia?

Per.
Occisi sumus.

Pal.
Quid negotist?

Per.
Res palamst.

Pal.
Quae res palamst?

Per.
De tegulis
modo nescio quis inspectavit vestrum familiarium
per nostrum impluvium intus ápud nos Philocomasium atque hospitem
osculantis.

Pal.
Quis homo id vidit?

Per.
Tuos conservos.

Pal.
Quis is homost?

Per.
Nescio, ita abripuit repente sese subito.

Pal.

Suspicor
me periisse.

Per.

Vbi abit, conclamo: ‘heus quid agis tu’ inquam ‘in tegulis?’
ille mihi abiens ita respondit ‘se sectari simiam.’

Pal.
Vae mihi misero, quoi pereundumst propter nihili bestiam.
sed Philocomasium hicine etiam nunc est?

Per.
Quom exibam, hic erat.

Pal.
I sis, iube transire huc quantum possit, se ut videant domi
familiares, nisi quidem illa nos volt, qui servi sumus,
propter amorem suom omnes crucibus contubernales dari.

Per.
Dixi ego istuc; nisi quid aliud vis.

Pal.
Volo. hoc ei dicito:
profecto ut ne quoquam de ingenio degrediatur muliebri
earumque artem et disciplinam optineat colere.

Per.
Quem ad modum?

Pal.
Vt eum, qui hic se vidit, verbis vincat, ne is se viderit.
siquidem centiens hic visa sit, tamen infitias eat.
os habet, linguam, perfidiam, malitiam atque audaciam,
confidentiam, confirmitatem, fraudulentiam.
qui arguat se, eum contra vincat iureiurando suo:
domi habet animum falsiloquom, falsificum, falsiiurium,
domi dolos, domi delenifica facta, dómi fallacias.
nam mulier holitori numquam supplicat, si quast mala:
domi habet hortum et condimenta ad omnis mores maleficos.

Per.

Ego istaec, si erit hic, nuntiabo. sed quid est, Palaestrio,
quod volutas tute tecum in corde?

Pal.
Paulisper tace,
dúm ego mihi consilia in animum convoco et dum consulo
quid agam, quem dolum doloso contra conservo parem,
qui illam hic vidit osculantem, id visum ut ne visum siet.

Per.
Quaere: ego hinc abscessero aps te huc interim. illuc sis vide,
quem ad modum adstitit, severo fronte curans cogitans.
pectus digitis pultat, cor credo evocaturust foras;
ecce avortit: nixus laevo in femine habet laevam manum,
dextera digitis rationem computat, ferit femur
dexterum. ita vehementer icit: quod agat aegre suppetit.
concrepuit digitis: laborat; crebro commutat status,
eccere autem capite nutat: non placet quod repperit.
quidquid est, incoctum non expromet, bene coctum dabit.
ecce autem aedificat: columnam mento suffigit suo.
apage, non placet profecto mi illaec aedificatio;
nam os columnatum poetae esse indaudivi barbaro,
cui bini custodes semper totis horis occubant.
euge, euscheme hercle astitit et dulice et comoedice;
numquam hodie quiescet prius quam id quod petit perfecerit.
habet opinor. age si quid agis, vigila, ne somno stude,
nisi quidem hic agitare mavis varius virgis vigilias.
tibi ego dico. an heri maduisti? heus te adloquor, Palaestrio:
vigila inquam, expergiscere inquam, lucet hoc inquam.

Pal.
Audio.

Per.
Viden hostis tibi adesse tuoque tergo obsidium? consule,
arripe opem auxiliumque ad hanc rem: propere hoc, non placide
decet.

anteveni aliqua aut tú aliquosum circumduce exercitum,
coge in obsidium perduellis, nostris praesidium para;
interclude inimicis commeatum, tibi muni viam
qua cibatus commeatusque ad te et legiones tuas
tuto possit pervenire: hanc rém age, res subitaria est.
reperi, comminiscere, cedo calidum consilium cito,
quae hic sunt visa ut visa ne sint, facta ut facta ne sient.
magnam illic homo rem incipissit, magna munit moenia.
tu unus si recipere hoc ad te dicis, confidentiast
nos inimicos profligare posse.

Pal.
Dico et recipio
ad me.

Per.
Et ego impetrare dico id quod petis.

Pal.
At te Iuppiter
bene amet.

Per.
Auden participare me quod commentu's?

Pal.
Tace,
dum in regionem astutiarum mearum te induco, ut scias
iuxta mecum mea consilia.

Per.
Salva sumes indidem.

Pal.
Erus meus elephanti corio circumtentust, non suo,
neque habet plus sapientiai quam lapis.

Per.

Ego istuc scio.

Pal.
Nunc sic rationem incipisso, hánc instituam astutiam,
ut Philocomasio huc sororem geminam germanam alteram
dicam Athenis advenisse cúm amatore aliquo suo,
tam similem, quam lacte lactist; ápud te eos hic devortier
dicam hospitio.

Per.
Euge euge, lepide, laudo commentum tuom.

Pal.
Vt si illic concriminatus sit advorsum militem
meus conservos, eam vidisse hic cum alieno oscularier,
eam arguam vidisse apud te contra conservom meum
cum suo amatore amplexantem atque osculantem.

Per.
Immo optume.
idem ego dicam, si ex me exquiret miles.

Pal.
Sed simillimas
dicito esse, et Philocomasio id praecipiendum est ut sciat,
ne titubet, si exquiret ex ea miles.

Per.
Nimis doctum dolum.
sed si ambas videre in uno miles concilio volet,
quid agimus?

Pal.
Facilest: trecentae possunt causae conligi:
“non domist, ábiit ambulatum, dormit, ornatur, lavat,
prandet, potat: occupatast, operae non est, non potest”,
quantum vis prolationum, dum modo hunc prima via
inducamus, vera ut esse credat quae mentibimur.

Per.
Placet ut dicis.

Pal.
Intro abi ergo, et si isti est mulier, eam iube
cito domum transire, atque haec ei dice monstra praecipe,
ut teneat consilia nostra, quem ad modum exorsi sumus,
de gemina sorore.

Per.
Docte tíbi illam perdoctam dabo.
numquid aliud?

Pal.
Intro ut abeas.

Per.
Abeo. —

Pal.
Et quidem ego ibo domum
atque hominem investigando operam huic dissimulabiliter dabo,
qui fuerit conservos qui hodie sit sectatus simiam.
nam ille non pótuit quin sermone suo aliquem familiarium
participaverit de amica eri, sese vidisse eam
hic in proximo osculantem cum alieno adulescentulo.
novi morem: egomet tacere nequeo solus quod scio.
si invenio qui vidit, ad eum vineas pluteosque agam:
res paratast, vi pugnandoque hominem caperest certa res.
si ita non reperio, ibo odorans quasi canis venaticus,
usque donec persecutus volpem ero vestigiis.
sed fores crepuerunt nostrae, ego voci moderabor meae;
nam illic est Philocomasio custos meus conservos qui it foras.

Sceledrvs
Nisi quidem ego hodie ambulavi dormiens in tegulis,
certo edepol scio me vidisse hic proxumae viciniae
Philocomasium erilem amicam sibi malam rem quaerere.

Pal.
Hic illam vidit osculantem, quantum hunc audivi loqui.

Scel.
Quis hic est?

Pal.
Tuos conservos. quid agis, Sceledre?

Scel.
Te, Palaestrio,
volup est convenisse.

Pal.
Quid iam? aut quid negotist? fac sciam.

Scel.
Metuo —

Pal.
Quid metuis?

Scel.
Ne hercle hodie, quantum hic familiariumst,
maxumum in malum cruciatumque insuliamus.

Pal.
Tu sali
solus, nám ego istam insulturam et desulturam nil moror.

Scel.
Nescis tu fortasse, apud nos facinus quod natumst novom.

Pal.
Quod id est facinus?

Scel.
Impudicum.

Pal.
Tute scias soli tibi,
mihi ne dixis, scire nolo.

Scel.
Non enim fáciam quin scias.
simiam hodie sum sectatus nostram in horum tegulis.

Pal.
Edepol, Sceledre, homo sectatu's nihili nequam bestiam.

Scel.
Di te perdant.

Pal.
Te istuc aequom — quoniam occepisti, eloqui.

Scel.
Forte fortuna per impluvium huc despexi in proxumum,
atque ego illi áspicio osculantem Philocomasium cum altero
nescio quo adulescente.

Pal.
Quod ego, Sceledre, scelus ex te audio?

Scel.
Profecto vidi.

Pal.
Tutin?

Scel.
Egomet duobus his oculis meis.

Pal.
Abi, non verisimile dicis, neque vidisti.

Scel.

Num tibi
lippus videor?

Pal.
Medicum istuc tibi meliust percontarier.
verum enim tu ístam, si te di ament, temere hau tollas fabulam:
tuis nunc cruribus capitique fraudem capitalem hinc creas.
nam tibi iam ut pereas paratum est dupliciter, nisi supprimis
tuom stultiloquium.

Scel.
Qui vero dupliciter?

Pal.
Dicam tibi.
primumdum, si falso insimulas Philocomasium, hoc perieris;
iterum, si id verumst, tu ei custos additus eo perieris.

Scel.
Quid fuat me, nescio: haec me vidisse ego certo scio.

Pal.
Pergin, infelix?

Scel.
Quid tibi vis dicam nisi quod viderim?
quin etiam nunc intus hic in proxumost.

Pal.
Eho an non domist?

Scel.
Vise, abi intro tute, nam ego mi iam nil credi postulo.

Pal.
Certum est facere. —

Scel.

Hic te opperiar; eadem illi insidias dabo,
quam mox horsum ad stabulum iuuenix recipiat se a pabulo.
quid ego nunc faciam? custodem me illi miles addidit:
nunc si indicium facio, interii; si taceo, interii tamen,
si hoc palam fuerit. quid peius muliere aut audacius?
dúm ego in tegulis sum, illaec sese ex hospitio edit foras;
edepol facinus fecit audax. hocine si miles sciat,
credo hercle has sustollat aedis totas atque hunc in crucem.
hercle quidquid est, mussitabo potius quam interam male;
non ego possum quae ipsa sese venditat tutarier.

Pal.
Sceledre, Sceledre, quis homo in terra te alter est audacior?
quis magis dís inimicis natus quam tu atque iratis?

Scel.
Quid est?

Pal.
Iuben tibi oculos exfodiri, quibus id quod nusquam est vides?

Scel.
Quid, nusquam?

Pal.
Non ego tuam empsim vitam vitiosa nuce.

Sc.
Quid negotist?

Pal.
Quid negoti sit rogas?

Sc.
Cur non rogem?

Pal.
Non tu tibi istam praetruncari linguam largiloquam iubes?

Scel.
Quam ob rem iubeam?

Pal.
Philocomasium eccam domi, quam in proxumo
vidisse aibas te osculantem atque amplexantem cum altero.

Scel.
Mirumst lolio victitare te tam vili tritico.

Pal.
Quid iam?

Scel.
Quia luscitiosu's.

Pal.
Verbero, edepol tu quidem
caecus, non luscitiosu's. nam illa quidem ... domi.

Scel.
Quid, domi?

Pal.
Domi hercle vero.

Scel.
Abi, ludis me, Palaestrio.

Pa.
Tum mihi sunt manus ínquinatae.

Sc.
Qui dum?

Pa.
Quia ludo luto.

Scel.

Vae capiti tuo.

Pal.
Tuo istuc, Sceledre, promitto fore,
nisi oculos orationemque aliam commutas tibi.
sed fores cóncrepuerunt nostrae.

Scel.
At ego ilico observo foris;
nam nihil est qua hinc huc transire ea possit nisi recto ostio.

Pal.
Quin domi eccam. nescio quae te, Sceledre, scelera suscitant.

Scel.
Mihi ego video, mihi ego sapio, mihi ego credo plurumum:
mé homo nemo deterrebit, quin ea sit in his aedibus.
hic obsistam, ne imprudenti huc ea se subrepsit mihi.

Pal.
Meus illic homo est, deturbabo iam ego illum de pugnaculis.
vin iam faciam, ut stultividum ... fateare?

Scel.
Age face.

Pal.
Neque te quicquam sapere corde neque oculis uti?

Scel.
Volo.

Pal.
Nempe tu istíc ais esse erilem concubinam?

Scel.
Atque arguo
eam me vidisse osculantem hic intus cum alieno viro.

Pal.
Scin tu nullum commeatum hínc esse a nobis?

Scel.
Scio.

Pal.
Neque solarium neque hortum, nisi per impluvium?

Scel.
Scio.

Pal.
Quid nunc? si ea domist, si facio, ut eam exire hinc videas domo,
dignun es verberibus multis?

Scel.
Dignus.

Pal.
Serva istas fores,
ne tibi clam se subterducat istinc atque huc transeat.

Scel.
Consilium est ita facere.

Pal.
Pede ego iam illam huc tibi sistam in viam. —

Scel.
Agedum ergo face. vólo scire, utrum egon id quod vidi viderim
an illic faciat, quod facturum dicit, ut ea sit domi.
nam ego quidem meos oculos habeo nec rogo utendos foris.
sed hic illi subparasitatur semper, hic eae proxumust,
primus ad cibum vocatur, primo pulmentum datur;
nam illic noster est fortasse circiter triennium,
neque cuiquam quam illi in nostra meliust famulo familia.
sed ego hoc quod ago, id me agere oportet, hoc observare ostium.

sic obsistam. hac quidem pol certo verba mihi numquam dabunt.

Pal.
Praecépta facito ut mémineris.

Philocomasivm
Totiéns monere mírumst.

Pal.
At metuo ut satis sis subdola.

Phil.
Cedo vel decem, edocebo
minime malas ut sint malae, mihi solae quod superfit.

Pal.
Age nunciam insiste in dolos; ego abs te procul recedam.
quid ais tu, Sceledre?

Scel.
Hanc rem gero. habeo auris, loquere quidvis.

Pal.
Credo ego istoc extemplo tibi esse eundum actutum extra portam,
dispessis manibus, patibulum quom habebis.

Scel.
Quamnam ob rem?

Pal.
Respice dum ad laevam: quis illaec est mulier?

Scel.
Pro di immortales,
eri cóncubinast haec quidem.

Pal.
Mihi quoque pol ita videtur.

age nunciam, quando lubet —

Scel.
Quid agam?

Pal.
Perire propera.

Phil.
Vbi iste ést bonus sérvos, qui probri me maxumi innocentem
falso insimulavit?

Pal.
Em tibi, hic mihi dixit tibi quae dixi.

Phil.
Tun me vidisse in proxumo hic, sceleste, ais osculantem?

Pal.
Atque cum álieno adulescentulo dixit.

Scel.
Dixi hercle vero.

Ph.
Tun me vidisti?

S.
Atque his quidem hercle oculis.

Ph.
Carebis, credo,
qui plus vident quam quod vident.

Scel.
Numquam hercle deterrebor
quin viderim id quod viderim.

Phil.

Ego stulta et mora multum,
quae cum hoc insano fabuler, quem pol ego capitis perdam.

Scel.
Noli minitari: scio crucem futuram mihi sepulcrum;
ibi meí sunt maiores siti, pater, avos, proavos, abavos.
non possunt mihi minaciis tuis hisce oculi exfodiri.
sed paucis verbis te volo, Palaestrio. opsecro te,
unde exit haec?

Pal.
Vnde nísi domo?

Scel.
Domo?

Pal.
Mé viden?

Scel.
Te video.
nimis mírumst facinus, quo modo haec hinc huc transire potuit;
nam certo neque solariumst apud nós neque hortus ullus
neque fénestra nisi clatrata; nam certe ego te hic intus vidi.

Pal.
Pergin, sceleste, intendere hanc arguere?

Phil.
Ecastor ergo
mi hau falsum evenit somnium, quod noctu hac somniavi.

Pal.
Quid somniasti?

Phil.
Ego eloquar. sed amabo advortite animum.
hac nocte in somnis mea soror geminast germana visa

venisse Athenis in Ephesum cum suo amatore quodam;
ei ambo hóspitio huc in proxumum mihi devortisse visi.

Pal.
Palaestrionis somnium narratur. perge porro.

Phil.
Ego laeta visa, quia soror venisset, propter eandem
suspicionem maximam sum visa sustinere.
nam arguere in somnis me meus mihi familiaris visust,
me cum alieno adulescentulo, quasi nunc tu, esse osculatam,
quom illa osculata mea soror gemina esset suompte amicum.
id me insimulatam perperam falsum esse somniavi.

Pal.
Satin eadem vigilanti expetunt quae in somnis visa memoras?
eu hércle praesens somnium. abi intro et comprecare.
narrandum ego istuc militi censebo.

Phil.
Facere certum est,
neque me quidem patiar probri falso impune insimulatam. —

Scel.
Timeo quid rerum gesserim, ita dorsus totus prurit.

Pal.
Scin te periisse?

Scel.
Nunc quidem domi certo est. certa res est
nunc nostrum observare ostium, ubi ubist.

Pal.
At, Sceledre, quaeso,
ut ad id exemplum somnium quam simile somniavit
atque ut tu suspicatus es eam vídisse osculantem.

Scel.
Nescio quid credam egomet mihi iam, ita quod vidisse credo
me id iam non vidisse arbitror.

Pal.
Ne tu hercle sero, opinor,
resipisces: si ad erum haec res prius † devenerit, peribis pulchre.

Scel.
Nunc demum experior, mi ob oculos caliginem opstitisse.

Pal.
Dudum edepol planum est id quidem, quae hic usque fuerit intus.

Scel.
Nihil habeo certi quid loquar: non vidi eam, etsi vidi.

Pal.
Ne tu edepol stultitia tua nos paene perdidisti:
dum te fidelem facere ero voluisti, absumptu's paene.
sed fores vicini proxumi crepuerunt. conticiscam.

Phil.
Inde ignem in aram, ut Ephesiae Dianae laeta laudes
gratesque agam eique ut Arabico fumificem odore amoene,
quom me in locis Neptuniis templisque turbulentis
servavit, saevis fluctibus ubi sum adflictata multum.

Scel.
Palaestrio, o Palaestrio.

Pal.
O Sceledre, Sceledre, quid vis?

Scel.
Haec mulier, quae hinc exit modo, estne erilis concubina
Philocomasium, an non est ea?

Pal.
Hercle opinor, ea videtur.
sed facinus mirum est, quo modo haec hinc huc transire potuit,
si quidem east.

Scel.
An dubium tibi est eam esse hanc?

Pal.
Ea videtur.

Scel.
Adeamus, appellemus. heus, quid istúc est, Philocomasium?
quid tibi istic in istisce aedibus debetur, quid negotist?
quid nunc taces? tecum loquor.

Pal.
Immo edepol tute tecum;
nam haec nil respondet.

Scel.
Te adloquor, viti probrique plena,
quae circum vicinos vagas.

Phil.
Quicum tu fabulare?

Scel.
Quicum nisi tecum?

Phil.
Quis tu homo es, aut mecum quid est negoti?

Scel.
Mé rogas homo qui sim?

Phil.
Quin ego hoc rogem quod nesciam?

Pal.
Quis ego sum igitur, si hunc ignoras?

Phil.
Mihi odiosus, quisquis es,
et tu et hic.

Sc.
Non nos novisti?

Ph.
Neutrum.

Sc.
Metuo maxume,

Pal.
Quid metuis?

Scel.
Enim ne nos nosmet perdiderimus uspiam;
nam nec te neque me novisse ait haec.

Pal.
Persectari hic volo,
Sceledre, nos nostri an alieni simus, ne dum quispiam
nos vicinorum imprudentis aliquis immutaverit.

Scel.
Certe equidem noster sum.

Pal.
Et pol ego. quaeris tu, mulier, malum.
tibi ego dico, heus, Philocomasium.

Phil.
Quae te intemperiae tenent,
qui me perperam perplexo nomine appelles?

Pal.
Eho,
quis igitur vocare?

Phil.
Diceae nomen est.

Scel.
Iniuria es,
falsum nomen possidere, Philocomasium, postulas;
ἄδικος es tu, non δικαία, et meo ero facis iniuriam.

Phil.
Egone?

Scel.
Tune.

Phil.
Quaé heri Athenis Ephesum adveni vesperi
cum meo amatore, adulescente Atheniensi?

Pal.
Dic mihi,
quid hic tibi in Epheso est negoti?

Phil.
Geminam germanam meam
hic sororem esse indaudivi, eam veni quaesitum.

Scel.
Mala es.

Phil.
Immo ecastor stulta multum, quae vobiscum fabuler.
abeo.

Scel.

Abire non sinam te.

Phil.
Mitte.

Scel.
Manifestaria es.
non omitto.

Phil.
At iam crepabunt mihi manus, malae tibi,
nisi me omittis.

Scel.
Quid, malum, astas? quin tenes altrinsecus?

Pal.
Nil moror negotiosum mi esse tergum. qui scio
an ista non sit Philocomasium átque alia eius similis sit?

Phil.
Mittis me an non mittis?

Scel.
Immo vi atque invitam ingratiis,
nisi voluntate ibis, rapiam te domum.

Phil.
Hosticum hoc mihi
domicilium est, Athenis domus est Atticis; ego istam domum
neque moror neque vos qui hómines sitis novi neque scio.

Scel.
Lege agito: te nusquam mittam, nisi das firmatam fidem,
te huc, si omisero, intro ituram.

Phil.
Vi me cogis, quisquis es.

do fidem, si omittis, isto me intro ituram quo iubes.

Sc.
Ecce omitto.

Ph.
At ego abeo missa. —

Sc.
Muliebri fecit fide.

Pal.
Sceledre, manibus amisisti praedam. tám east quam potis
nostra erilis concubina. vin tu facere hoc strenue?

S.
Quid faciam?

P.
Ecfer mihi machaeram huc intus.

S.
Quid facies ea?

Pal.
Intro rumpam recta in aedis: quemque hic intus videro
cum Philocomasio osculantem, eum ego óbtruncabo extempulo.

Scel.
Visanest ea esse?

Pal.
Immo edepol plane east.

Scel.
Sed quo modo
dissimulabat.

Pa.

Abi, machaeram huc ecfer.

Sc.
Iam faxo hic erit. —

Pal.
Neque eques neque pedes profectost quisquam tanta audacia,
qui aeque faciat confidenter quicquam quam mulier facit.
ut utrubique orationem docte divisit suam,
ut sublinitur os custodi cauto, conservo meo.
nimis beat quod commeatus transtinet trans parietem.

Scel.
Heus, Palaestrio, machaera nihil opust.

Pal.
Quid iam, aut quid est?

S.
Domi eccam erilem concubinam.

P.
Quid, domi?

S.
In lecto cubat.

Pal.
Edepol ne tu tibi malam rem repperisti, ut praedicas.

Scel.
Quid iam?

Pal.
Quia hanc attingere ausu's mulierem hinc ex proxumo.

Scel.
Magis hercle metuo.

Pal.
Sed numquam quisquam faciet quin soror
istaec sit gemina huius: eam pol tu osculantem hic videras.

Scel.
Id quidem palam est eam esse, ut dicis; quid propius fuit,
quam ut perirem, si elocutus essem ero?

Pal.
Ergo, si sapis,
mussitabis: plus oportet scire servom quam loqui.
ego abeo a te, ne quid tecum consili commisceam,
atque apud hunc ero vicinum; tuae mihi turbae non placent.
erus si veniet, si me quaeret, hic ero: hinc me arcessito. —

Sceledrvs
Satin abiit ille neque erile negotium
plus curat, quasi non servitutem serviat?
certo illa quidem hic nunc intus est in aedibus,
nam egomet cubantem eam modo offendi domi.
certum est nunc observationi operam dare.
Periplectomenvs
non hercle hisce homines me marem, sed feminam
vicini rentur esse servi militis:
ita me ludificant. meamne hic invitam hospitam,
quae heri huc Athenis cum hospite advenit meo,
tractatam et ludificatam, ingenuam et liberam?

Scel.
Perii hercle, hic ad me recta habet rectam viam.
metuo, illaec mihi res ne malo magno fuat,
quantum hunc audivi facere verborum senem.

Per.
Accedam ad hominem. tun, Sceledre, hic, scelerum caput,
meam ludificavisti hospitam ante aedis modo?

Scel.

Vicine, ausculta quaeso.

Per.
Ego auscultem tibi?

Scel.
Expurigare volo me.

Per.
Tun te expuriges,
qui facinus tantum tamque indignum feceris?
an quia latrocinamini, arbitramini
quidvis licere facere vobis, verbero?

Scel.
Licetne?

Per.
At ita me di deaeque omnis ament,
nisi mihi supplicium virgeum de te datur
longum diutinumque, a mane ad vesperum,
quod meas confregisti imbricis et tegulas,
ibi dum condignam te sectatu's simiam,
quodque inde inspectavisti meum apud me hospitem
amplexum amicam, quom osculabatur, suam,
quodque cóncubinam erilem insimulare ausus es
probri pudicam meque summi flagiti,
tum quod tractavisti hospitam ante aedis meam:
nisi mihi supplicium stimuleum de te datur,
dedecoris pleniorem erum faciam tuom,
quam magno vento plenumst undarum mare.

Scel.
Ita sum coactus, Periplectomene, ut nesciam
utrum me postulare prius ... tecum aequom siet;
nisi si istaec non est haec neque haec istast, mihi
me expurigare tibi videtur aequius;
sicut etiam nunc nescio quid viderim:

itast ista huius similis nostrai tua,
siquidem non eadem est.

Per.
Vise ad me intro, iam scies.

Scel.
Licetne?

Per.
Quin te iubeo; et placide noscita.

Scel.
Ita facere certum est. —

Per.
Heus, Philocomasium, cito
transcurre curriculo ad nos, ita negotiumst.
post, quando exierit Sceledrus a nobis, cito
transcurrito ad vos rursum curriculo domum.
nunc pol ego metuo ne quid infuscaverit.
si hic non videbit mulierem — aperitur foris.

Scel.
Pro di immortales, similiorem mulierem
magisque eándem, ut pote quae non sit eadem, non reor
deos fácere posse.

Per.
Quid nunc?

Scel.
Commerui malum.

Per.
Quid igitur? eanest?

Scel.

Etsi east, non est ea.

Per.
Vidistin istam?

Scel.
Vidi, et illam et hospitem,
complexam atque osculantem.

Per.
Eanest?

Scel.
Nescio.

Pe.
Vin scire plane?

Sc.
Cupio.

Pe.
Abi intro ad vos domum
continuo, vide sitne istaec vostra intus.

Scel.
Licet,
pulchre admonuisti. iám ego ad te exibo foras. —

Per.
Numquam edepol hominem quemquam ludificarier
magis facete vidi et magis miris modis.
sed eccum egreditur.

Scel.
Periplectomene, te opsecro
per deos atque homines perque stultitiam meam
perque tua genua —

Per.
Quíd opsecras me?

Scel.

Inscitiae
meae et stultitiae ignoscas. nunc demum scio
me fuisse excordem, caecum, incogitabilem.
nam Philocomasium eccam intus.

Per.
Quid nunc, furcifer?
vidistin ambas?

Scel.
Vidi.

Per.
Erum exhibeas volo.

Scel.
Meruisse equidem me maxumum fateor malum,
et tuae fecisse me hospitae aio iniuriam;
sed meam esse erilem concubinam censui,
cui me custodem erus addidit miles meus.
nam ex uno puteo similior numquam potis
aqua aquai sumi quam haec est atque ista hospita.
et me despexe ad te per impluvium tuom
fateor.

Per.
Quid ni fateare, ego quod viderim?
et ibi osculantem meum hospitem cum ista hospita
vidisti?

Scel.
Vidi (cur negem quod viderim?),
sed Philocomasium me vidisse censui.

Per.
Ratun istic me hominem esse omnium minimi preti,
si ego me sciente paterer vicino meo
eam fieri apud me tam insignite iniuriam?

Scel.
Nunc demum a me insipienter factum esse arbitror,
cum rem cognosco; at non malitiose tamen
feci.

Per.
Immo indigne; nám hominem servom suos
domitos habere oportet oculos et manus
orationemque.

Scel.
Egone si post hunc diem
muttivero, etiam quod egomet certo sciam,
dato excruciandum me: egomet me dedam tibi;
nunc hoc mi ignosce quaeso.

Per.
Vincam animum meum,
ne malitiose factum id esse aps te arbitrer.
ignoscam tibi istuc.

Scel.
At tibi di faciant bene.

Per.
Ne tu hercle, si te di ament, linguam comprimes
posthac, etiam illud quod scies nesciveris
nec videris quod videris.

Scel.
Bene me mones,
ita facere certum est. sed satine oratu's?

Per.
Abi.

Scel.
Numquid nunc aliud me vis?

Per.
Ne me noveris.

Scel.
Dedit híc mihi verba. quam benigne gratiam
fecit, ne iratus esset. scio quam rem gerat:
ut miles cum extemplo a foro adveniat domum,
domi cómprehendar. una hic et Palaestrio
me habent venalem: sensi et iam dudum scio.
numquam hercle ex ista nassa ego hodie escam petam;
nam iam aliquo aufugiam et me occultabo aliquot dies,
dum haec consilescunt turbae atque irae leniunt.
nam uni satis populo impio merui mali. —
verum tamen dé me quidquid est, ibo hinc domum.

Per.
Illic hínc abscessit. sat edepol certo scio,
occisam saepe sapere plus multo suem:
quoin id adimatur ne id quod vidit viderit.
nam illius oculi atque aures atque opinio
transfugere ad nos. usque adhuc actum est probe;
nimium festivam mulier operam praehibuit.
redeo in senatum rusum; nam Palaestrio
domi nunc apud me est, Sceledrus nunc autemst foris:
frequens senatus poterit nunc haberier.
ibo intro, ne, dum absum, alter sorti defuat. —

ACT III.

Palaestrio
Cóhibete intra limen etiam vos parumper, Pleusicles,
sinite me prius pérspectare, ne uspiam insidiae sient
concilium quod habere volumus. nam ópus est nunc tuto loco,
unde inimicus ne quis nostri spolia capiat consili.
nam bene consultum inconsultum est, si id inimicis usuist,
neque potest quin, si id inimicis usuist, obsit tibi;
nam bene consultum consilium surripitur saepissime,
si minus cúm cura aut cautella locus loquendi lectus est.
quippe qui, si rescivere inimici consilium tuom,
tuopte tibi consilio occludunt linguam et constringunt manus,
atque eadem quae illis voluisti facere, illi faciunt tibi.
sed speculabor, ne quis aut hinc aut ab laeva aut dextera
nostro consilio venator adsit cum auritis plagis.
sterilis hinc prospectus usque ad ultumam est plateam probe.
evocabo. heus Periplectomene et Pleusicles, progredimini.
Periplectomenvs
Ecce nos tibi oboedientes.

Pal.
Facilest imperium in bonis.
sed volo scíre: eodem consilio, quód intus meditati sumus,
gerimus rem?

Per.
Magis nón potest esse ad rem utibile.

Pal.
Immo ...
quid tibi, Pleusicles?

Plevsicles
Quodne vóbis placeat, displiceat mihi?
quis homo sit magis meus quam tu es?

Pal.
Loquere lepide et commode.

Per.
Pol ita decet hunc facere.

Pl.
At hoc me facinus miserum macerat
meumque cor corpusque cruciat.

Per.
Quid id est quod cruciat? cedo.

Plevs.
Me tibi istúc aetatis homini facinora puerilia
obicere, neque te decora neque tuis virtutibus;
ea te expetere ex opibus summis mei honoris gratia
mihique amanti ire opitulatum atque ea te facere facinora,
quae istaec aetas fugere facta magis quam sectari solet:
eam pudet me tíbi in senecta obicere sollicitudinem.

Pal.
Novo modo tu homo amás, siquidem te quicquam quod faxis pudet;
nihil amas, umbra es amantis magis quam amator, Pleusicles.

Plevs.
Hancine aetatem exercere mei me amoris gratia?

Per.
Quid ais tu? itane tibi ego videor oppido Acherunticus?
tam capularis, tamine tibi diu videor vitam vivere?
nam équidem haud sum natus annos praeter quinquaginta et quattuor,
clare oculis video, pernix sum manibus, pedibus mobilis.

Pal.
Si albicapillus hic, videtur neutiquam ab ingenio senex.
inest in hoc emussitata sua sibi ingenua indoles.

Plevs.
Pol id quidem éxperior ita esse ut praedicas, Palaestrio;
nam benignitas quidem huius oppido adulescentula est.

Per.
Immo, hospes, magis cúm periclum facies, magis nosces meam
comitatem erga te amantem.

Plevs.
Quid opus nota noscere?

Per.
Vt apud te exemplum experiundi hábeas, ne quaeras foris;
nam nisi qui ipse amavit, aegre amantis ingenium inspicit:
et ego amoris aliquantum habeo umorisque etiam in corpore,
neque dum exarui ex amoenis rebus et voluptariis.
vel cavillator facetus vel conviva commodus
item eró, neque ego oblocutor sum alteri in convivio:
incommoditate abstinere me apud convivas commodo
commemini et meae orationis iustam partem persequi
et meam partem itidem tacere, quom aliena est oratio;
minime sputator, screator sum, itidem minime mucidus:
post Ephesi sum natus, non enim in Apulis; non sum Animulas.

Pal.
O lepidum senem, in se si quas memorat virtutis habet,
atque equidem plane educatum in nutricatu Venerio.

Per.
Plus dabo quam praedicabo ex me venustatis tibi.
neque ego úmquam alienum scortum subigito in convivio,
neque praeripio pulpamentum neque praevorto poculum,
neque per vinum umquam ex me exoritur discidium in convivio:
si quis ibi est odiosus, abeo domum, sermonem segrego;
Venerem, amorem amoenitatemque accubans exerceo.

Pal.
Tu quidem edepol omnis moris ad venustatem † vacet;

cedo tris mi hominis aurichalco contra cum istis moribus.

Plevs.
At quidem illúc aetatis qui sit non invenies alterum
lepidiorem ad omnís res nec qui amicus amico sit magis.

Per.
Tute me ut fateare faciam esse adulescentem moribus,
ita apud omnis comparebo tibi res bene factis frequens.
opusne erit tibi advocato tristi, iracundo? ecce me;
opusne leni? leniorem dices quam mutum est mare,
liquidiusculusque ero quam ventus est favonius.
vel hilarissimum convivam hinc indidem expromam tibi,
pel primarium parasitum atque obsonatorem optumum;
tum ad saltandum non cinaedus malacus aequest atque ego.

Pal.
Quid ad illas artis optassis, si optio eveniat tibi?

Plevs.
Huius pro méritis ut referri pariter possit gratia,
tibique, quibus nunc me esse experior summae sollicitudini.
at tibi tanto sumptui esse mihi molestumst.

Per.
Morus es.
nam in mala uxore atque inimico si quid sumas, sumptus est,
in bono hospite atque amico quaestus est quod sumitur
et quod in divinis rebus sumptumst, sapienti lucrumst.
deum virtute est te unde hospitio accipiam apud me comiter:
es, bibe, animo obsequere mecum atque onera te hilaritudine.
liberae sunt aedis, liber sum autem ego: mei volo vivere.
nam mihi, deum virtute dicam, propter divitias meas
licuit uxorem dotatam genere summo ducere;
sed nolo mi oblatratricem in aedis intro mittere.

Pal.
Cur non vis? nam procreare liberos lepidumst onus.

Per.
Hercle vero liberum esse tete, id multo lepidiust.

Pal.
Tu homo et alteri sapienter potis es consulere et tibi.

Per.
Nam bona uxor suave ductust, si sit usquam gentium
ubi ea possit inveniri; verum egone eam ducam domum,
quae mihi numquam hoc dicat “eme, mi vir, lanam, unde tibi pallium
malacum et calidum conficiatur tunicaeque hibernae bonae,
ne algeas hac hieme” (hoc numquam verbum ex uxore audias),
verum prius quam galli cantent quae me e somno suscitet,
dicat “da, mi vir, kalendis meam qui matrem munerem,
da qui faciam † condiat, dá quod dem quinquatribus
praecantrici, coniectrici, hariolae atque haruspicae;
flagitiumst, si nil mittetur quae supercilio spicit;
tum plicatricem clementer non potest quin munerem;
iam pridem, quia nihil abstulerit, suscenset ceriaria;
tum opstetrix expostulavit mecum, parum missum sibi;
quid? nutrici non missuru’s quicquam, quae vernas alit?”
haec atque horum similia alia damna multa mulierum
me uxore prohibent, mihi quae huius similes sermones serat.

Pal.
Di tibi propitii sunt, nam hercle si istam semel amiseris
libertatem, haud facile in eundem rusum restitues locum.

Plevs.
At illa laus est, magno in genere et in divitiis maxumis
liberos hominem educare, generi monumentum et sibi.

Per.
Quando habeo multos cognatos, quid opus est mihi liberis?
nunc bene vivo et fortunate atque ut volo atque animo ut lubet.
mea bona in morté cognatis didam, inter eos partiam.
ei apud me aderunt, me curabunt, visent quid agam, ecquid velim.

prius quam lucet adsunt, rogitant noctu ut somnum ceperim.
eos pro liberis habebo, qui mihi mittunt munera.
sacrificant: dant inde partem mihi maiorem quam sibi,
abducunt ad exta; me ad se ad prandium, ad cenam vocant;
ille misérrumum se retur, minimum qui misit mihi.
illi inter se certant donis, egomet mecum mussito:
bona mea inhiant, me certatim nutricant et munerant.

Pal.
Nimis bona ratione nimiumque ad te te et tuam vitam habes:
et tibi sunt gemini et trigemini, si te bene habes, filii.

Per.
Pol si habuissem, satis cepissem miseriarum e liberis:
continuo excruciarer animi: si ei forte fuisset febris,
censerem emori; cecidissetve ebrius aut de equo uspiam,
metuerem ne ibi diffregisset crura aut cervices sibi.

Pal.
Huic homini dignum est divitias esse et diu vitam dari,
qui et rem servat et se bene habet suisque amicis usui est.

Plevs.
O lepidum caput. ita me di deaeque ament, aequom fuit
deos paravisse, uno exemplo ne omnes vitam viverent;
sicut merci pretium statuit qui est probus agoranomus:
quae probast mers, pretium ei statuit, pro virtute ut veneat,
quae improbast, pro mercis vitio dominum pretio pauperat,
itidem divos dispertisse vitam humanam aequom fuit:
qui lepide ingeniatus esset, vitam ei longinquam darent,
qui improbi essent et scelesti, is adimerent animam cito.
si hoc paravissent, et homines essent minus multi mali
et minus audacter scelesta facerent facta, et postea,
quí homines probi essent, esset is annona vilior.

Per.
Qui deorum consilia culpet, stultus inscitusque sit,

quique eos vituperet. nunc istis rebus desisti decet.
nunc volo opsonare, ut, hospes, tua te ex virtute et mea
meae domi accipiam benigne, lepide et lepidis victibus.

Plevs.
Nihil me paenitet iam quanto sumptui fuerim tibi;
nam hospes nullus tám in amici hospitium devorti potest,
quin, ubi triduom continuom fuerit, iam odiosus siet;
verum ubi dies decem continuos sit, east odiorum Ilias:
tam etsi dominus non invitus patitur, servi murmurant.

Per.
Serviendae servituti ego servos instruxi mihi,
hospes, non qui mi imperarent quibusve ego essem obnoxius:
si illis aegrest mihi quod volup est, meo remigio rem gero,
tamen id quod odiost faciundumst cum malo atque ingratiis.
nunc, quod occepi, opsonatum pergam.

Plevs.
Si certumst tibi,
commodulum obsona, ne magno sumptu: mihi quidvis sat est.

Per.
Quin tu istanc orationem hinc veterem atque antiquam amoves?
nam proletario sermone nunc quidem, hospes, utere;
nam ei solent, quando accubuere, ubi cena adpositast, dicere:
“quid opus fuit hoc, hospes, sumptu tanto nostra gratia?
insanivisti hercle, nám idem hoc hominibus sat erat decem.”
quod eorum causa obsonatumst culpant et comedunt tamen.

Pal.
Fit pol íllud ad íllud exemplum. ut docte et perspecte sapit.

Per.
Sed eidem homines numquam dicunt, quamquam adpositumst
ampliter:
“iube illud demi; tolle hanc patinam; remove pernam, nil moror;
aufer illam offam porcinam, probus hic conger frigidus,

remove, abi aufer” neminem eorum haec adseverare audias,
sed procellunt se et procumbunt dimidiati, dum appetunt.

Pal.
Bonus bene ut malos descripsit mores.

Per.
Haud centesimam
partem dixi atque, otium rei si sit, possum expromere.

Pal.
Igitur id quod agitur, † hic primum praeverti decet.
nunc hoc animum advortite ambo. mihi opus est opera tua,
Periplectomene; nám ego inveni lepidam sycophantiam,
qui admutiletur miles usque caesariatus atque uti
huic amanti ac Philocomasio hanc ecficiamus copiam,
ut hic eam abducat habeatque.

Per.
Dari istanc rationem volo.

Pal.
At ego mi anulum dari istunc tuom volo.

Per.
Quam ad rem usui est?

Pal.
Quando habebo, igitur rationem mearum fabricarum dabo.

Per.
Vtere, accipe.

Pal.
Accipe a me rusum rationem doli,
quam institui.

Plevs.

Perpurigatis damus tibi ambo operam auribus.

Pal.
Erus meus ita magnus moechus mulierum est, ut neminem
fúisse aeque neque futurum credo.

Plevs.
Credo ego istuc idem.

Pal.
Isque Alexandri praestare praedicat formae suam,
itaque omnis se ultro sectari in Epheso memorat mulieres.

Per.
Edepol qui te de isto multi cupiunt † non mentirier,
sed ego ita esse ut dicis teneo pulchre. proin, Palaestrio,
quam potis tam verba confer maxime ad compendium.

Pal.
Ecquam tu potes reperire forma lepida mulierem,
cui facetiarum cor pectusque sit plenum et doli?

Per.
Ingenuamne an libertinam?

Pal.
Aequi istuc facio, dum modo
eam des quae sit quaestuosa, quaé alat corpus corpore,
cuique sapiat pectus; nam cor non potest, quod nulla habet.

Per.
Lautam vis an quae nondum sit lauta?

Pal.
Sic consucidam,
quam lepidissimam potis quamque adulescentem maxume.

Per.

Habeo eccillam meam clientam, meretricem adulescentulam.
sed quid ea usus est?

Pal.
Vt ad te eam iam deducas domum
itaque eam huc ornatam adducas, ex matronarum modo,
capite compto, crinis vittasque habeat, adsimuletque se
tuam esse uxorem: ita praecipiundum est.

Plevs.
Erro quam insistas viam.

Pal.
At scietis. séd ecquae ancillast illi?

Per.
Est prime cata.

Pal.
Ea quoque opus est. ita praecipito mulieri atque ancillulae,
ut simulet se tuam esse uxorem et deperire hunc militem,
quasique hunc anulum faveae suae dederit, ea porro mihi,
militi ut darem, quasique ego ei rei sim interpres.

Per.
Audio;
ne me surdum esse arbitrare, si audes. ego recte meis
auribus utor ...

Pal.

...

ei dabo, aps tua mi uxore dicam delatum et datum,
ut sese ad eum conciliarem; ille eiusmodi est: cupiet miser,
qui nisi adulterio studiosus rei nulli aliaest improbus.

Per.

Non potuit reperire, si ipsi Soli quaerendas dares,
lepidiores duas ad hanc rem quám ego. hábe animum bonum.

Pal.
Ergo adcura, sed propere opus est. nunc tu ausculta, Pleusicles.

Plevs.
Tibi sum oboediens.

Pal.
Hoc facito, miles domum ubi advenerit,
memineris ne Philocomasium nomines.

Plevs.
Quem nominem?

Pa.
Diceam.

Pl.
Nempe eandem quae dudum constitutast.

Pa.
Pax, abi.

Plevs.
Meminero. sed quid meminisse id refert, rogo ego te tamen.

Pal.
Ego enim dicam tum quando usus poscet; interea tace,
ut nunc etiam hic agat ac tu tum partis defendas tuas.

Plevs.
Ego eo intro igitur. —

Pal.
Et praecepta sobrie ut cures face.
quantas res turbo, quantas moveo machinas.

eripiam ego hodie concubinam militi,
si centuriati bene sunt maniplares mei.
sed illúm vocabo. heus Sceledre, nisi negotiumst,
progredere ante aedis, te vocat Palaestrio.

Lvcrio
Non operaest Sceledro.

Pal.
Quid iam?

Lvc.

Sorbet dormiens.

Pal.
Quid, sorbet?

Lvc.

Illud, stertit, volui dicere.
sed quia consimile est, quom stertas, quasi sorbeas —

Pal.
Eho an dórmit Sceledrus intus?

Lvc.

Non naso quidem,
nam eo mágnum clamat. tetigit calicem clanculum,
dum misit nardum in amphoram, cellarius.

Pal.
Eho tu sceleste, qui illi suppromu's, eho —

Lvc.

Quid vis?

Pal.
Qui lubitum est illi condormiscere?

Lvc.

Oculis opinor.

Pal.
Non te istuc rogito, scelus.
procede huc. periisti iam, nisi verum scio.
prompsisti tu illi vinum?

Lvc.

Non prompsi.

Pal.
Negas?

Lvc.

Nego hercle vero, nam ille me vetuit dicere;
neque equidem heminas octo exprompsi in urceum
neque illic calidum éxbibit in prandium.

Pal.
Neque tu bibisti?

Lvc.

Di me perdant, si bibi,
si bibere potui.

Pal.
Quid iam?

Lvc.

Quia enim obsorbui;

nam nimis calebat, amburebat gutturem.

Pal.
Alii ebrii sunt, alii poscam potitant.
bono subpromo et promo cellam creditam.

Lvcr.
Tu hércle idem fáceres, si tibi esset credita:
quoniam aemulari non licet, nunc invides.

Pal.
Eho an umquam prompsit antehac? responde, scelus.
atque ut tu scire possis, ego dico tibi:
si falsa dices, Lucrio, excruciabere.

Lvcr.
Ita vero? ut tu ipse me dixisse delices,
post e sagina ego eiciar cellaria,
ut tibi, si promptes, alium subpromum pares.

Pal.
Non edepol faciam. age eloquere audacter mihi.

Lvcr.
Numquam edepol vidi promere. verum hoc erat:
mihi imperabat, ego promebam postea.

Pal.
Hoc illi crebro capite sistebant cadi.

Lvcr.
Non hercle tam istoc valide cassabant cadi;
sed in célla erat paulum nimis lóculi lubrici,
ibi erat bilibris aula sic propter cados,
ea saepe deciens complebatur: vidi eam
plenam atque inanem fieri, plenam maxume;
ubi bacchabatur aula, cassabant cadi.

Pal.
Abi, abi íntro iam. vos in cella vinaria
bacchanal facitis. iam hercle ego erum ádducam a foro.

Lvcr.
Perii, excruciabit mé erus, domum si venerit,
quom haec facta scibit, quia sibi non dixerim.
fugiam hercle aliquo atque hoc in diem extollam malum.
ne dixeritis, obsecro, huic, vostram fidem.

Pal.
Quo té agis?

Lvcr.
Missus sum aliquo: iam huc revenero.

Pal.
Quis misit?

Lvcr.
Philocomasium.

Pal.
Abi, actutum redi.

Lvcr.
Quaeso tamen tu meam partem, infortunium
si dividetur, me absente accipito tamen. —

Pal.
Modo intellexi quam rem mulier gesserit:
quia Sceledrus dormit, hunc subcustodem suom
foras áblegavit, dum ab se huc transiret. placet.
sed Periplectomenus quam ei mandavi mulierem
nimis lépida forma ducit. di hercle hanc rem adiuvant.
quam digne ornata incedit, haud meretricie.
lepide hoc succedit sub manus negotium.
Periplectomenvs

Rem omném tibi, Acroteleútium, tibique úna, Milphidíppa,
domi démonstravi in ordine. hanc fabricam fallaciasque
minus sí tenetis, denuo volo percipiatis plane;
satis si íntellegitis, aliud est quod potius fabulemur.

Acrotelevtivm
Stultitia atque insipientia mea istaec sit, mi patrone,
me ire in opus alienum aut ibi meam operam pollicitari,
si ea in ópificina nesciam aut mala esse aut fraudulenta.

Per.
At melius est monerier.

Acr.
Meretricem commoneri,
quam sane magni referat, nihil clam est. quin egomet ultro,
postquam adbibere auris meae tuae oram orationis,
tibi dixi, miles quem ad modum potis sit deasciari.

Per.
At nemo solus satis sapit. nam ego multos saepe vidi
regionem fugere consili prius quam repertam haberent.

Acr.
Si quid faciendum est mulieri male atque malitiose,
ea síbi immortalis memoriast meminisse et sempiterna;
sin bene quid aut fideliter faciundum eisdem veniat,
obliviosae extempulo fiunt, meminisse nequeunt.

Per.
Ergo istuc metuo, quom venit vobis faciundum utrumque:
nam id proderit mihi, militi male quod facietis ambae.

Acr.
Dum nescientes quod bonum faciamus, ne formida.

Per.
Mala mulier mers est.

Acr.
Ne pave, peioribus conveniunt.

Per.
Ita vos decet. consequimini.

Pal.
Cesso égo illis obviam ire?
venire salvom gaudeo, lepide hercle ornatus incedis.

Per.
Bene opportuneque obviam es, Palaestrio. em tibi adsunt
quas me iussisti adducere et quo ornatu.

Pal.
eu, noster esto.
Palaestrio Acroteleutium salutat.

Acr.
Quis hic amabo est,
qui tam pro nota nominat me?

Per.
Hic noster architectust.

Acr.
Salve, architecte.

Pal.
Salva sis. sed dic mihi, ecquid hic te
oneravit praeceptis?

Per.
Probe meditatam utramque duco.

Pal.
Audire cupio, quem ad modum; ne quid peccetis paveo.

Per.
Ad tua praecepta de meo nihil his novom adposivi.

Acr.
Nempe lúdificari militem tuom erum vis?

Pal.
Exlocuta es.

Acr.
Lepide et sapienter, commode et facete res paratast.

Pal.
Atque huius uxorem volo te esse adsimulare.

Acr.
Fiet.

Pal.
Quasi militi animum adieceris, simulare.

Acr.
Sic futurum est.

Pal.
Quasique ea res per me interpretem et tuam ancillam ei curetur.

Acr.
Bonus vátes poteras esse, nam quae sunt futura dicis.

Pal.
Quasique anulum hunc ancillula tua abs té detulerit ad me,
quem ego militi porro darem tuis verbis.

Acr.
Vera dicis.

Per.
Quid istís nunc memoratis opust quae commeminere?

Acr.
Meliust.
nam, mi patrone, hoc cogitato, ubi probus est architectus,
bene lineatam si semel carinam conlocavit,
facile esse navem facere, ubi fundata, constitutast.
nunc haec carina satis probe fundata, bene statutast,
atque architecto adsunt fabri ad eam rem haud imperiti.
si non nos materiarius remoratur, quod opus qui det
(novi indolem nostri ingeni), cito erit parata navis.

Pal.
Nempe tú novisti militem meum erum?

Acr.
Rogare mirumst.
populi odium quidni noverim, magnidicum, cincinnatum,
moechum unguentatum.

Pal.
Num ille te nam novit?

Acr.
Numquam vidit:
qui noverit me quis ego sim?

Pal.
Nimis lépide fabulare;
eo †potiuerim lepidius pol fieri.

Acr.
Potin ut hominem
mihi des, quiescas cetera? ni ludificata lepide
ero, cúlpam omnem in me imponito.

Pal.
Age igitur intro abite,
insistite hoc negotium sapienter.

Acr.
Alia cura.

Pal.
Age, Periplectomene, has nunciam duc intro; ego ad forum illum
conveniam atque illi hunc anulum dabo, atque praedicabo
a tua uxore mihi datum esse eamque illum deperire.
hanc ad nos, quom extemplo a foro veniemus, mittitote,
quasi clanculum ad eum missa sit.

Per.
Faciemus. alia cura.

Pal.
Vos modo curate, ego illúm probe iam oneratum huc acciebo. —

Per.
Bene ambula, bene rem geras. egone hoc si efficiam plane,
ut concubinam militis meus hospes habeat hodie
atque hinc Athenas avehat, si hodie hunc dolum dolamus,
quid tibi ego mittam muneris!

Acr.
Datne ab se mulier operam?

Per.
Lepidissume et compsissume.

Acr.
Confido confuturum.
ubi facta erit conlatio nostrarum malitiarum,
haud vereor ne nos subdola perfidia pervincamur.

Per.
Abeamus ergo intro, haec uti meditemur cogitate,
ut accurate et commode hoc quod agendumst exsequamur,
ne quid, ubi miles venerit, titubetur.

Acr.
Tu morare. —

ACT IV.

Pyrgopolinices
Vólup est, quod agas, si id procedit lepide atque ex sententia;
nam ego hodie ad Seleucum regem misi parasitum meum,
ut latrones quos conduxi hinc ad Seleucum duceret,
qui eius regnum tutarentur, mihi dum fieret otium

Palaestrio
Quin tu tuam rem cura potius quam Seleuci, quae tibi
condicio nova et lúculenta fertur per me interpretem.

Pyrg.
Immo omnis res posteriores pono atque operam do tibi.
loquere: auris meas profecto dedo in dicionem tuam.

Pal.
Circumspice dum, ne quis nostro hic auceps sermoni siet.
nam hoc negoti clandestino ut agerem mandatumst mihi.

Pyrg.
Nemo adest.

Pal.
Hunc arrabonem amoris primum a me accipe.

Pyrg.
Quid hic? unde est?

Pal.
A luculenta átque festiva femina,
quae te amat tuamque éxpetessit pulcram pulcritudinem;
eius nunc mi ánulum ad te ancilla porro ut deferrem dedit.

Pyrg.
Quid ea? ingenuan an festuca facta e serva liberast?

Pal.
Vah, egone ut ad te ab libertina esse auderem internuntius,
qui ingenuis satis résponsare nequeas quae cupiunt tui?

Pyrg.
Nuptan est an vidua?

Pal.
Et nupta et vidua.

Pyrg.
Quo pacto potis
nupta et vidua esse eadem?

Pal.
Quia adulescens nuptast cum sene.

Pyrg.
Euge.

Pal.
Lepida et liberali formast.

Pyrg.
Cave mendacium.

Pal.
Ad tuam formam illa una dignast.

Pyrg.
Hercle pulchram praedicas.
sed quis east?

Pal.
Senis huius uxor Periplectomeni ex proxumo;
ea demoritur te atque ab illo cupit abire: odit senem.
nunc te orare atque obsecrare iussit, ut eam copiam
sibi potestatemque facias.

Pyrg.
Cupio hercle equidem, si illa volt.

Pal.
Quae cupit?

Pyrg.
Quid illá faciemus concubina, quae domist?

Pal.
Quin tu illam iube abs te abire quo lubet: sicut soror
eius huc gémina venit Ephesum et mater, accersuntque eam.

Pyrg.
Eho tu, an venit Ephesum mater eius?

Pal.
Aiunt qui sciunt.

Pyrg.
Hercle occasionem lepidam, ut mulierem excludam foras.

Pal.
Immo vin tu lepide facere?

Pyrg.
Loquere et consilium cedo.

Pal.
Vin tu illam actutum amovere, a te ut abeat per gratiam?

Pyrg.
Cupio.

Pal.
Tum te hoc facere oportet. tibi divitiarum adfatimst:
iube sibi aurum atque ornamenta, quae illi instruxti mulieri,
dono habere, auferre ... abs te quo lubeat sibi.

Pyrg.
Placet ut dicis; sed ne et istam amittam et haec mutet fidem
vide modo.

Pal.
Vah delicatu's, quae te tamquam oculos amet.

Pyrg.
Venus me amat.

Pal.
St tace, aperitur foris, concede huc clanculum.
haec celox illiust, quae hinc egreditur, internuntia,

Pyrg.
Quae haec celox?

Pal.
Ancillula illiust, quae hinc egreditur foras.
quae anulum istunc attulit quem tibi dedi.

Pyrg.
Edepol haec quidem
bellulast.

Pal.
Pithecium haec est prae illa et spinturnicium.
viden tu illam oculis venaturam facere atque aucupium auribus?

Milphidippa
Iam est ante aedis circus ubi sunt ludi faciundi mihi.
dissimulabo, hos quasi non videam néque esse hic etiamdum sciam.

Pyrg.
Tace, subauscultemus ecquid de me fiat mentio.

Milph.

Numquis nam hic própe adest qui rem alienam potius curet quam suam,
qui aucupet me quid agam, qui de vesperi vivat suo?
eos nunc homines metuo, mihi ne obsint neve opstent uspiam,
domo si bitat, dum huc transbitat, quae huius cupiens corporist,
quae ámat hunc hominem nimium lepidum et nimia pulchritudine,
militem Pyrgopolynicem.

Pyrg.
Satin haec quoque me deperit?
meam laudat speciem. edepol huius sermo haud cinerem quaeritat.

Pal.
Quo argumento?

Pyrg.
Quia enim loquitur laute et minime sordide.

Pal.
Quippini? istaec de te loquitur: nihil attrectat sordidi.

Pyrg.
Tum autem illa ipsa est nimium lepida nimisque nitida femina.
hercle vero iam adlubescit primulum, Palaestrio.

Pal.
Priusne quam illam oculis tuis videas?

Pyrg.
Video id quod credo tibi.
tum haec celocula autem absentem subigit me ut amem.

Pal.
Hercle hanc quidem
nil tu amassis; mi haec desponsast: tibi si illa hodie nupserit,
ego hanc continuo uxorem ducam.

Pyrg.

Quíd ergo hanc dubitas conloqui?

Pal.
Sequere hac me ergo.

Pyrg.
Pedisequos tibi sum.

Milph.
Vtinam, cuius causa foras
sum egressa, eius conveniundi mihi potestas evenat.

Pal.
Erit, ét tibi exoptatum óptinget, bonum habe ánimum, ne formída; homo quidamst qui scit, quód quaeris ubi sít.

Milph.
Quem ego hic audívi?

Pal.
Sociúm tuorum concíliorum et partícipem consiliorum.

Milph.
Tum pól ego id quod celo haú celo.

Pal.
Immo et célas et non célas.

Milph.
Quo argúmento?

Pal.
Infidós celas: ego súm tibi firme fidus.

Milph.
Cedo sígnum, si harunc Báccharum es.

Pal.
Amat múlier quaedam quéndam.

Milph.
Pol istúc quidem multae.

Pal.
At nón multae de dígito donum míttunt.

Milph.
Enim cógnovi nunc, fécisti modo mi éx proclivo plánum.
sed hic númquis adest?

Pal.
Vel adést vel non.

Milph.
Cedo té mihi solae sólum.

Pal.
Brevin án longinquo sérmoni?

Milph.
Tribus vérbis.

Pal.
Iam ad te rédeo.

Pyrg.
Quid ego? híc astabo tántisper cum hac fórma et factis frústra?

Pal.
Patere átque asta, tibi ego hánc do operam.

Pyrg.
Propera, éxpectando excrúcior.

Pal.
Pedetémptim (tu hoc scis) tráctari satiúst hasce huius modi mércis.

Pyrg.
Age age út tibi maxume cóncinnumst.

Pal.
Nullúmst hoc stolidius sáxum.
redeo ád te. quid me vóluisti?

Milph.
Quo pácto hoc Ilium accédi
velis, út ferrem abs te consilium.

Pal.
Quasi hunc dépereat —

Milph.
Teneo ístuc.

Pal.
Conlaúdato formam ét faciem et virtútis commemoráto.

Milph.
Ad eám rem habeo omnem aciém, tibi uti dudúm iam demonstrávi.

Pal.
Tu cétera cura et cóntempla et de meís venator vérbis.

Pyrg.
Aliquám mihi partem hodie óperae des deníque, tandem ades, remelígo.

Pa.
Adsum, ímpera, si quid vís.

Py.
Quid illaec narrát tibi?

Pa.

Lamentári
ait íllam, miseram crúciari et lacrimántem se adflictáre,
quia tís egeat, quia té careat. ob eám rem huc ad te míssast.

Pyrg.
Iube adíre.

Pal.
At scin quid tú facias? facitó fastidi plénum,
quasi nón lubeat; me inclámato, quia síc te volgo vólgem.

Pyrg.
Memini ét praeceptis párebo.

Pal.
Vocon érgo hanc quae te quaérit?

Pyrg.
Adeát, si quid volt.

Pal.
Sí quid vis, adi, múlier.

Mil.
Pulcher, sálve.

Pyrg.
Meum cógnomentum cómmemoravit. di tíbi dent quaecumque óptes.

Milph.
Tecum aétatem exigere út liceat —

Pyrg.
Nimium óptas.

Milph.
Non me dico,
sed erám meam, quae te démoritur.

Pyrg.
Multae aliae ídem istuc cúpiunt,
quibus cópia non est.

Milph.
Écastor haud mírum, si te habes cárum,
hominém tam pulchrum et praéclarum virtute et forma et factis.
deus dígnior fuit quisquam hómo qui esset?

Pal.
Non hércle humanust érgo —
nam vólturio plus húmani credo ést.

Pyrg.
Magnum me fáciam
nunc quom íllaec me sic cónlaudat.

Pal.
Viden tu ígnavum, ut sese ínfert?
quin tu huíc responde, haec íllaec est ab illá quam dudum dixi.

Pyrg.
Qua ab íllarum? nam ita me óccursant multaé: meminisse haud
póssum.

Milph.
Ab illá quae digitos déspoliat suos ét tuos digitos décorat.
nam hunc ánulum áb tui cupienti huic détuli, hic ad te pórro.

Pyrg.
Quid núnc tibi vis, muliér? memora.

Milph.
Vt quae té cupit, eam ne spérnas,
quae pér tuam nunc vitám vivit: sit nécne sit, spes in te úno est.

Pyrg.
Quid núnc volt?

Mil.
Te compéllare et complécti et contrectáre.
nam nísi tu illi fers súppetias, iam illa ánimum despondébit.

age, mí Achilles, fiat quód te oro, serva íllam pulchram púlchre,
expróme benignum ex te íngenium, urbícape, occisor régum.

Pyrg.
Eu hercle ódiosas res. quótiens hoc tibi, vérbero, ego interdíxi,
meam né sic volgo póllicitere operám?

Pal.
Audin tu, múlier?
dixi hóc tibi dudum, et núnc dico: nisi huic vérri adfertur mérces,
non híc suo seminió quemquam porclénam impertitúrust.

Milph.
Dabitúr quantum ipsus pretí poscet.

Pal.
Talentúm Philippi huic opus aúri est;
minus áb nemine accípiet.

Milph.
Eu ecastór nimis vilest tándem.

Pyrg.
Non míhi avaritia umquam ínnatast: satis hábeo divitiárum,
plus mi aúri mille est módiorum Philippí.

Pal.
Praeter thensaúros.
tum argénti montes, nón massas habet, Aetna mons non aeque altos.
†

Milph.
Eu ecástor hominem périurum.

Pal.
Vt ludó?

Milph.

Quid ego? ut sublécto?
sed amábo, mitte me áctutum.

Pal.
Quin tu huíc respondes áliquid,
aut fácturum aut non fácturum?

Milph.
Quid illám miseram animi excrúcias,
quae númquam male de té meritast?

Pyrg.
Iube eámpse exire huc ád nos.
dic me ómnia quae volt fácturum.

Milph.
Facis núnc ut te facere aéquom,
quom, quaé te volt, eandém tu vis,

Pal.
Non ínsulsum huic ingénium.

Milph.
Quomque me óratricem haud sprévisti sistíque exorare éx te.
quid est? út ludo?

Pal.
Nequeo hércle equidem risú meo moderari.

Milph.

...

ob eám causam huc abs te ávorti.

Pyrg.
Non édepol tu scis, múlier,
quantum égo honorem nuncílli habeo.

Milph.
Scio, et ístuc illi dícam.

Pal.
Contra aúro alii hanc vendére potuit operám.

Mil.
Pol istuc tibi crédo.

Pal.
Meri béllatores gígnuntur, quas híc praegnatis fécit,
et púeri annos octíngentos vivónt.

Milph.
Vae tibi, nugátor.

Pyrg.
Quin mílle annorum pérpetuo vivónt, ab saeclo ad saéclum.

Pal.
Eo mínus dixi, ne haec cénseret me advórsum se mentíri.

Milph.
Perií, quot hic ipse annós vivet, cuius fílii tam diu vívont?

Pyrg.
Postríduo natus sum égo, mulier, quam Iúppiter ex Ope nátust.

Pal.
Si hic prídie natus forét quam ille est, hic habéret regnum in caélo.

Milph.
Iam iám sat, amabo, est. sínite abeam, si póssum, viva a vóbis.

Pal.
Quin érgo abis, quando résponsumst?

Milph.
Ibo átque illam huc addúcam,

proptér quam opera est mihi. númquid vis?

Pyrg.
Ne mágis sim pulcher quám sum,
ita mé mea forma habet sóllicitum.

Pal.
Quid hic núnc stas? quin abis?

Milph.
Ábeo.

Pal.
Atque ádeo, audin tu? dicíto docte et cordáte, ut cor ei sáliat —
Philocómasio dic, si ést istic, domum ut tránseat: hunc hic ésse.

Milph.
Hic cúm mea era est, hinc clám nostrum hunc sermónem
sublegérunt.

Pal.
Lepidé factumst: iam ex sérmone hoc gubernábunt doctius pórro.

Milph.
Remoráre, abeo. —

Pal.
Neque té remoror neque tángo neque te — táceo.

Pyrg.
Iube máturare illam éxire huc. iam istíc rei praevortémur.

Pyrg.
Quid nunc mi es auctor ut faciam, Palaestrio,
de concubina? nam nullo pacto potest
prius haec in aedis recipi quam illam amiserim.

Pal.

Quid me consultas quid agas? dixi equidem tibi
quo id pacto fieri possit clementissime.
aurum atque vestem muliebrem omnem habeat sibi,
quae illi instruxisti: sumat, habeat, auferat;
dicasque tempus maxume esse, ut eat domum:
sororem geminam adesse et matrem dicito,
quibus cóncomitata recte deveniat domum.

Pyrg.
Qui tu scis eas adesse?

Pal.
Quia oculis meis
vidi hic sororem esse eius.

Pyrg.
Convenitne eam?

Pal.
Convenit.

Pyrg.
Ecquid fortis visast?

Pal.

Omnia
vis optinere.

Pyrg.
Vbi matrem esse aiebat soror?

Pal.
Cubare in navi lippam atque oculis turgidis
nauclerus dixit, qui illas advexit, mihi.
is ad hos nauclerus hospitio devortitur.

Pyrg.

Quid is? ecquid fortis?

Pal.
Abi sis hinc, nam tu quidem
ad equas fuisti scitus admissarius,
qui consectare qua maris qua feminas.
hoc age nunc.

Pyrg.
Istuc quod das consilium mihi,
te cum illa verba facere de ista re volo;
nam cum illa sane congruos sermo tibi.

Pal.
Qui potius quam tute adeas, tuam rem tute agas?
dicas uxorem tibi necessum ducere;
cognatos persuadere, amicos cogere.

Pyrg.
Itan tu censes?

Pal.
Quid ego ní ita censeam?

Pyrg.
Ibo igitur intro. tu hic ante aedis interim
speculare, ut, ubi illaec prodeat, me provoces.

Pal.
Tu modo istuc cura quod agis.

Pyrg.
Curatum id quidemst.
quin si voluntáte nolet, vi extrudam foras.

Pal.
Istuc cave fáxis; quin potius per gratiam
bonam abeat abs te. atque illaec quae dixi dato,

aurum, ornamenta quae illi instruxisti ferat.

Pyrg.
Cupio hercle.

Pal.
Credo te facile impetrassere.
sed abi intro. noli stare.

Pyrg.
Tibi sum oboediens. —

Pal.
Numquid videtur demutare alio atque uti
dixi esse vobis dudum hunc moechum militem?
nunc ad me ut veniat usust Acroteleutium aut
ancillula eius aut Pleusicles. pro Iuppiter,
satine ut Commoditas usquequaque me adiuvat?
nam quos videre exoptabam me maxume,
una exeuntis video hínc e proxumo.

Acrotelevtivm
Séquimini, simul círcumspicite, né quis adsit árbiter.

Milphidippa
Neminem pol video, nísi hunc quem volumus conventum.

Pal.
Et ego vos.

Milph.
Quid agis, noster architecte?

Pal.
Egone architectus? vah.

Milph.
Quid est?

Pal.
Quia enim non sum dignus prae te, ut figam palum in parietem.

Acr.
Heia vero.

Pal.
Nimis facete nimisque facunde malast.
ut lepide deruncinavit militem.

Milph.
At etiam parum.

Pal.
Bono animo es: negotium omne iam succedit sub manus;
vos modo porro, ut occepistis, date operam adiutabilem.
nam ipse miles concubinam intro abiit oratum suam,
ab se ut abeat cum sorore et matre Athenas.

Plevsicles
Eu, probe.

Pal.
Quin etiam aurum atque ornamenta, quae ipse instruxit, mulieri
omnia dat dono, a se ut abeat: ita ego consilium dedi.

Plevs.
Facile istuc quidemst, si et illa volt et ille autem cupit.

Pal.
Non tu scis, quom ex alto puteo sursum ad summum escenderis,
maxumum periclum inde esse ab summo ne rusum cadas?
nunc haec res apud súmmum puteum geritur: si praesenserit
miles, nihil ecferri poterit huius: nunc cum maxume
opust dolis: domi esse ad eam rem video silvai satis,
mulieres tres, quartus tute es, quintus ego, sextus senex;
quod apud nos fallaciarum sex situmst, certo scio
oppidum quodvis, si detur, posse expugnari dolis.

date modo operam.

Acr.
Id nos ad te, si quid velles, venimus.

Pal.
Lepide facitis. nunc hanc tibi ego ímpero provinciam.

Acr.
Impetrabis, imperator, quod ego potero, quod voles.

Pal.
Militem lepide, et facete et laute ludificarier
volo.

Acr.
Voluptatem mecastor mi imperas.

Pal.
Scin quem ad modum?

Acr.
Nempe ut adsimulem me amore istius differri.

Pal.
Tenes.

Acr.
Quasique istius causa amoris ex hoc matrimonio
abierim, cupiens istius nuptiarum.

Pal.
Omne ordine.
nisi modo unum hoc: hasce esse aedis dicas dotalis tuas,
hinc senem aps te abiisse, postquam feceris divortium:
ne ille mox vereatur intro íre in alienam domum.

Acr.

Bene mones.

Pal.
Sed ubi ille exierit intus, istinc te procul
ita volo adsimulare, prae illius forma quasi spernas tuam
quasique eiús opulentitatem reverearis, et simul
formam, amoenitatem illius, faciem, pulchritudinem
conlaudato. satin praeceptumst?

Acr.
Teneo. satinest, si tibi
meum opus ita dabo expolitum, ut improbare non queas?

Pal.
Sat habeo. nunc tibi vicissim quae imperabo ea discito.
quom extemplo hoc erit factum, ubi intro haec abierit, ibi tu ilico
facito uti venias ornatu húc ad nos nauclerico;
causeam habeas ferrugineam, et scutulam ob oculos laneam,
palliolum habeas ferrugineum (nam is colos thalassicust),
id conexum in umero laevo, exfafillato bracchio,
praecinctus aliqui: adsimulato quasi gubernator sies;
atque apud hunc senem omnia haec sunt, nam is piscatores habet.

Plevs.
Quid? ubi ero exornatus quin tu dicis quid facturus sim?

Pal.
Huc venito et matris verbis Philocomasium arcessito,
ut, si itura sit Athenas, eat tecum ad portum cito,
atque ut iubeat ferri in navim si quid imponi velit.
nisi eat, te soluturum esse navim: ventum operam dare.

Plevs.
Satis placet pictura. perge.

Pal.
Ille extemplo illam hortabitur
ut eat, ut properet, ne morae sit matri.

Plevs.
Multimodis sapis.

Pal.
Ego illi dicam, ut me adiutorem, qui onus feram ad portum, roget.
ille iubebit me ire cum illa ad portum. ego adeo, ut tu scias,
prorsum Athenas protinus abibo tecum.

Plevs.
Atque ubi illo veneris,
triduom servire numquam te, quin liber sis, sinam.

Pal.
Abi cito atque orna te.

Plevs.
Numquid aliud?

Pal.
Haec ut memineris.

Plevs.
Abeo. —

Pal.
Et vos abite hinc intro actutum; nam illum huc sat scio
iam exiturum esse intus.

Acr.
Celebre apud nos imperium tuomst. —

Pal.
Agite abscedite ergo. ecce autem commodum aperitur foris.
hilarus exit: impetravit. inhiat quod nusquam est miser.
Pyrgopolinices
Quod volui ut volui impetravi, per amicitiam et gratiam,
a Philocomasio.

Pal.
Quid tam intus fuisse te dicam diu?

Pyrg.
Numquam ego me tam sensi amari quam nunc ab illa muliere.

Pal.
Quid iam?

Pyrg.
Vt multa verba feci, ut lenta materies fuit.
verum postremo impetravi ut volui: donavi dedi
quae voluit, quae postulavit; te quoque ei dono dedi.

Pal.
Etiam me? quo modo ego vivam sine te?

Pyrg.
Age, animo bono es,
eidem ego te illim liberabo. nam si possem ullo modo
impetrare ut abiret, ne te abduceret, operam dedi;
verum oppressit.

Pal.
Deos sperabo teque. postremo tamen
etsi istuc mi acerbumst, quia ero te carendum est optimo,
saltem id volup est, quom ex virtute formae évenit tibi
mea opera super hac vicina, quam ego nunc concilio tibi.

Pyrg.
Quid opust verbis? libertatem tibi ego et divitias dabo,
si impetras.

Pal.
Reddam impetratum.

Pyrg.
At gestio.

Pal.
At modice decet:
moderare animo, ne sis cupidus. séd eccam ipsam, egreditur foras.

Milphidippa
Era, éccum praesto mílitem.

Acrotelevtivm
Vbi est?

Milph.
Ad laevam.

Acr.
Video.

Milph.
Aspicito limis oculis, ne ille nos se sentiat videre.

Acr.
Video. edepol nunc nos tempus est malas peioris fieri.

Milph.
Tuomst principium.

Acr.
Obsecro, tute ipsum convenisti?
ne parce vocem, ut audiat.

Milph.
Cum ipso pol sum locuta,
placide, ipsi dum libitum est mihi, otiose, meo arbitratu ut volui.

Pyrg.
Audin quae loquitur?

Pal.
Audio. quam laeta est, quia ted adiit.

Acr.
O, fortunata mulier es.

Pyrg.
Vt amari videor.

Pal.
Dignu's.

Acr.
Permirum ecastor praedicas, te adiisse atque exorasse;
per epistulam aut per nuntium, quasi regem, adiri eum aiunt.

Milph.
Namque edepol vix fuit cópia adeundi atque impetrandi.

Pal.
Vt tu inclitu's apud múlieres.

Pyrg.
Patiar, quando ita Venus volt.

Acr.
Veneri pol habeo gratiam, eandémque et oro et quaeso,
ut eius mihi sit copia quem amo quemque expetesso
benignusque erga me ut siet, quod cupiam ne gravetur.

Milph.
Spero ita futurum, quamquam illum multae sibi expetessunt:
ille illas spernit segregat ab se omnis, extra te unam.

Acr.
Ergo iste metus me macerat, quod ille fastidiosust,
ne óculi eius sententiam mutent, ubi viderit me,
atque eius elegantia meam extémplo speciem spernat.

Milph.
Non faciet, bonum animum habe. †

Pyrg.
Vt ipsa se contemnit.

Acr.
Metuo, ne praedicatio tua nunc meam formam exsuperet.

Milph.
Istuc curavi, ut opínione illius pulchrior sis.

Acr.
Si pol me nolet ducere uxórem, genua amplectar
atque obsecrabo; alio modo, si non quibo impetrare,
consciscam letum: vivere sine illó scio me non posse.

Pyrg.
Prohibendam mortem mulieri videó. adibon?

Pal.
Minime;
nam tu te vilem feceris, si te ultro largiere:
sine ultro veniat; quaeritet, desideret, exspectet
sine: perdere istam gloriam vis, quám habes? cave sis faxis.
nam nulli mortali scio obtigisse hoc, nisi duobus,
tibi et Phaoni Lesbio, tam mulier sé ut amaret.

Acr.
Eo íntro, aut tu illum huc evoca foras, mea Milphidippa.

Milph.
Immo opperiamur, dum exeat aliquis.

Acr.
Durare nequeo,
quin eam intro.

Milph.
Occlusae sunt foris.

Acr.
Exfringam.

Milph.
Sana non es.

Acr.
Si amavit umquam aut si parem sapientiam habet ac formam,
per amorem si quid fecero, clementi ánimo ignoscet.

Pal.
Vt, quaeso, amore perditast tuo misera.

Pyrg.
Mutuom fit.

Pal.
Tace, ne aúdiat.

Milph.
Quid astitisti obstupida? cur non pultas?

Acr.
Quia non est intus quem ego volo.

Milph.
Qui scis?

Acr.
Scio pol ego, olfacio;
nam odore nasum sentiat, si intus sit.

Pal.
Hariolatur.

Pyrg.
Quia mé amat, propterea Venus fecit eam ut divinaret.

Acr.

Nescio ubi hic prope adest quem expeto videre: olet profecto.

Pyrg.
Naso pol iam haec quidem plús videt quam óculis.

Pal.
Caeca amore est.

Acr.
Tene me óbsecro.

Mil.
Quor?

Acr.
Ne cadam.

Milph.
Quid ita?

Acr.
Quia stare nequeo,
ita animus per oculos meos meus defit.

Milph.
Militem pol
tu aspexisti.

Acr.
Ita.

Milph.
Non video. ubi est?

Acr.
Videres pol, si amares.

Milph.
Non edepol tu illum magis amas, quam ego amem, si per te liceat.

Pal.
Omnes profecto mulieres te amant, ut quaeque aspexit.

Pyrg.
Nescio, tu ex me hoc audiveris an non: nepos sum Veneris.

Acr.
Mea Milphidippa, adi obsecro et congredere.

Pyrg.
Vt me veretur.

Pal.
Illa ad nos pergit.

Mil.
Vos volo.

Pyrg.
Et nos te.

Mil.
Vt iussisti,
eram meam eduxi foras.

Pyrg.
Video.

Milph.
Iube ergo adire.

Pyrg.
Induxi in animum, ne oderim item ut alias, quando orasti.

Milph.
Verbum edepol facere non potis, si accesserit prope ad te.
dum te obtuetur, interim linguam oculi praeciderunt.

Pyrg.

Levandum morbum mulieri video.

Mil.
Vt tremit atque extimuit,
postquam te aspexit.

Pyrg.
Víri quoque armáti idem istuc faciunt,
ne tu mirere eius mulierem. sed quid illa volt me facere?

Milph.
Ad se ut eas: tecum vivere volt atque aetatem exigere.

Pyrg.
Egon ád illam eam, quae nupta sit? vir eius me deprehendat.

Milph.
Quin tua causa exegit virum ab sé.

Pyrg.
Qui id facere potuit?

Mil.
Quia aedís dotalis huius sunt.

Pyrg.
Itane?

Mil.
Ita pol.

Pyrg.
Iube domum ire.
iam ego illi ero.

Milph.
Vide né sies in exspectatione,
ne illam animi excrucies.

Pyrg.
Non ero profecto. abite.

Mil.
Abimus. —

Pyrg.
Sed quid ego video?

Pal.
Quid vides?

Pyrg.
Nescio quis eccum incedit
ornatu quidem thalassico.

Pal.
It ad nos, volt te profecto.
nauclerus hic quidem est.

Pyrg.
Videlicet accersit hanc iam.

Pal.
Credo.

Plevsicles
Alium alio pacto propter amorem ni sciam
fecisse multa nequiter, verear magis
me amoris causa hóc ornatu incedere.
verum quom multos multa admisse acceperim
inhonesta propter amorem atque aliena a bonis:
mitto iam, ut occídi Achilles civis passus est —
sed eccúm Palaestrionem, stat cum milite:
oratio alio mihi demutandast mea.
mulier profecto natast ex ipsa Mora;
nam quaevis alia quae morast aeque, mora
minor ea videtur quam quae propter mulieremst.

hoc adeo fieri credo consuetudine.
nam ego hanc accerso Philocomasium. sed fores
pultabo. heus, ecquis hic est?

Pal.
Adulescens, quid est?
quid vis? quid pultas?

Plevs.
Philocomasium quaerito.
a matre illius venio. si iturast, eat.
omnis moratur: navim cupimus solvere.

Pyrg.
Iam dudum res paratast. i, Palaestrio,
aurum, ornamenta, vestem, pretiosa omnia
duc adiutores tecum ad navim qui ferant.
omnia conposita sunt quae donavi: auferat.

Pal.
Eó. —

Plevs.
Quaeso hercle propera.

Py.
Non morabitur.
quid istuc, quaeso? quid oculo factumst tuo?

Plevs.
Habeo equidem hercle oculum.

Pyrg.
At laevom dico.

Plevs.
Eloquar.
maris causa hercle hoc ego oculo utor minus,

nam si abstinuissem amare, tamquam hoc uterer.
sed nimis morantur me diu.

Pyrg.
Eccos exeunt.

Pal.
Quid modi flendó quaeso hodie fácies?

Philocomasivm
Quid ego ní fleam?
ubi pulcherrume egi aetatem, ábeo.

Pal.
Em hominem tibi,
qui a matre et sorore venit.

Phil.
Video.

Pyrg.
Audin, Palaestrio?

Pal.
Quid vis?

Pyrg.
Quin tu iubes ecferri ómnia quae isti dedi?

Plevs.
Philocomasium, salve.

Phil.
Et tu salve.

Plevs.
Materque et soror
tibi salutem me iusserunt dicere.

Phil.
Salvae sient.

Plevs.
Orant te, ut eas, ventus operam dum dat, ut velum explicent;
nam matri oculi si valerent, mecum venissent simul.

Phil.
Ibo; quamquam invita facio, impietas sit nisi eam.

Plevs.
Sapis.

Pyrg.
Si non mecum aetatem egisset, hodie stulta viveret.

Phil.
Istuc crucior, a viro me tali abalienarier,
nam tu quemvis potis es facere ut afluat facetiis;
et quia tecum eram, propterea ánimo eram ferocior:
eam nobilitatem amittendam video.

Pyrg.
Ne fle.

Phil.
Non queo,
quom te video.

Pyrg.
Habe bonum animum.

Phil.
Scio ego quid doleat mihi.

Pal.
Nam nil miror, si libenter, Philocomasium, híc eras,
si forma huius, mores, virtus, animum attinuere hic tuom,

quóm ego servos quando aspicio hunc, lacrumo quia diiungimur.

Phil.
Obsecro licet complecti prius quam proficisco?

Pyrg.
Licet.

Phil.
O mi ócule, o mi ánime.

Pal.
Obsecro, tene mulierem,
ne adfligatur.

Pyrg.
Quid istuc quaesost?

Pal.
Quia abs te abit, animo male
factum est huic repente miserae.

Pyrg.
Curre intro atque ecferto aquam.

Pal.
Nihil aquam moror, quiescat malo. ne interveneris,
quaeso, dum resipiscit.

Pyrg.
Capita inter se nimis nexa hisce habent.
non placet. labra ab labellis aufer, nauta, cave malo.

Plevs.
Temptabam spiraret an non.

Pyrg.
Aurem admotam oportuit.

Plevs.
Si magis vís, eam omittam.

Pyrg.
Nolo, retine.

Plevs.
At ultro misero.

Pyrg.
Exite atque ecferte huc intus omnia quae isti dedi.

Pal.
Etiam nunc saluto te, Lar familiaris, prius quam eo.
conservi conservaeque omnis, bene valete et vivite,
bene quaeso inter vos dicatis mi med absenti tamen.

Pyrg.
Age, Palaestrio, bono animo es.

Pal.
Eheu, nequeo quin fleam,
quom abs te abeám.

Pyrg.
Fer aequo ánimo.

Pal.
Scio ego quid doleat mihi.

Phil.
Sed quid hoc? quae res? quid video? lux, salve ...

Plevs.
Iam resipisti? ...

Phil.
Obsecro, quem amplexa sum

hominem? perii. sumne ego apud me?

Plevs.
Ne time, voluptas mea.

Pyrg.
Quid istuc est negoti?

Pal.
Animus hanc modo hic reliquerat.
† metuoque ut timeo, ne hoc tandem propalam fiat nimis.

Pyrg.
Quid id est?

Pal.
Nos secundum ferri nunc per urbem haec omnia,
ne quis tibi hoc vítio vortat.

Pyrg.
Mea, non illorum dedi:
parvi ego illos fácio. agite, íte cum dis benevolentibus.

Pal.
Tua ego hoc causa dico.

Pyrg.
Credo.

Pal.
Iam vale.

Pyrg.
Et tu bene vale.

Pal.
Ite cito, iam ego adsequar vos: cúm ero pauca volo loqui. —
quamquam alios fideliores semper habuisti tibi

quam me, tamen tibi habeo magnam gratiam rerum omnium;
et, si íta sententia esset, tibi servire malui
multo, quám alii libertus esse.

Pyrg.
Habe bonum animum.

Pal.
Eheu, quom venit mi in mentem, ut mores mutandi sient,
muliebris mores discendi, obliscendi stratiotici.

Pyrg.
Fac sis frugi.

Pal.
Iam non possum, amisi omnem lubidinem.

Pyrg.
I, sequere illos, ne morere.

Pal.
Bene vale.

Pyrg.
Et tu bene vale.

Pal.
Quaeso memineris, si forte liber fieri occeperim
(mittam nuntium ad te), ne me deseras.

Pyrg.
Non est meum.

Pal.
Cogitato identidem, tibi quam fidelis fuerim.
si id facies, tum demum scibis, tibi qui bonus sit, qui malus.

Pyrg.

Scio et perspexi saepe.

Pal.
Verum cum antehac, hodie maxume
scies: immo hodie me tuom factum faxo post dices magis.

Pyrg.
Vix reprimor quin te manere iubeam.

Pal.
Cave istuc feceris:
dicent te mendacem nec verum esse, fide nulla esse te,
dicent servorum praeter me esse hic fidelem neminem.
nam si honeste censeam te facere posse, suadeam;
verum non potest. cave fáxis.

Pyr.
Abi iam.

Pal.
Patiar quidquid est.

Pyrg.
Bene vale igitur.

Pal.
Ire meliust strenue. —

Pyrg.
Etiam nunc vale.
ante hoc factum hunc sum arbitratus semper servom pessumum:
eum fidelem mi esse invenio. cum egomet mecum cogito,
stulte feci qui hunc amisi. íbo hinc intro nunciam
ad amores meos. sed, sensi, hinc sonitum fecerunt foris.

Pver
Ne me moneatis, memini ego officium meum,
ego † nam conveniam illum, ubi ubi est gentium;

investigabo, óperae non parcam meae.

Pyrg.
Me quaerit illic. ibo huic puero obviam.

Pver.
Ehem, te quaero. salve, vir lepidissime,
cumulate commoditate, praeter ceteros
duo dí quem curant.

Pyrg.
Qui duo?

Pver.
Mars et Venus.

Pyrg.
Facetum puerum.

Pver.
Intro te ut eas obsecrat,
te volt, te quaerit, teque exspectans expetit.
amanti fer opem. quid stas? quin intro is?

Pyrg.
Eo. —

Pver.
Ipsus illic sese iam impedivit in plagas;
paratae insidiae sunt: in statu stat senex,
ut adoriatur moechum, qui formast ferox,
qui omnis se amare credit, quaeque aspexerit
mulier: eum oderunt qua viri qua mulieres.
nunc in tumultum ibo: intus clamorem audio. —

ACT V.

Periplectomenvs
Dúcite istum; sí non sequitur, rápite sublimén foras,
facite inter terram atque caelum ut sit situs, discindite.
Pyrgopolinices
Obsecro hercle, Periplectomene, te.

Per.
Nequiquam hercle obsecras.
vide ut istic tibi sit acutus, Cario, culter probe.

Cario
Quin iamdudum gestit moecho hóc abdomen adimere,
ut ea iam quasi puero in collo pendeant crepundia.

Pyrg.
Perii.

Per.
Haud etiam, numero hoc dicis.

Car.
Iamne in hominem ínvolo?

Per.
Immo etiam prius vérberetur fustibus.

Car.
Multum quidem.

...

Per.
Cur es ausus subigitare álienam uxorem, impudens?

Pyrg.
Ita me di ament, ultro ventumst ad me.

Per.
Mentitur, feri.

Pyrg.
Mane, dum narro.

Per.
Quid cessatis?

Pyrg.
Non licet mihi dicere?

Per.
Dic.

Pyrg.
Oratus sum, ad eam ut irem.

Per.
Quor ire ausu's? em tibi.

Pyrg.
Oiei, satis sum verberatus. obsecro.

Car.
Quam mox seco?

Per.
Vbi lubet: dispennite hominem divorsum et distendite.

Pyrg.
Obsecro hercle te, ut mea verba aúdias prius quam secat.

Per.
Loquere.

Pyrg.
Non volui nec factum est: viduam hercle esse censui,
itaque ancilla, conciliatrix quaé erat, dicebat mihi.

Per.
Iura te non nociturum esse hómini de hac re nemini,
quod tu hódie hic verberatu's aut quod verberabere,
si te salvom hinc amittemus Venerium nepotulum.

Pyrg.
Iuro per Iovem et Mavortem, me nociturum nemini,
quod ego hic hodie vapularim, iureque id factum arbitror;
et si intestatus non abeo hinc, bene agitur pro noxia.

Per.
Quid si id non faxis?

Pyrg.
Vt vivam semper intestabilis.

Car.
Verberetur etiam, postibi amittendum censeo.

Pyrg.
Di tibi bene faciant semper, quom advocatus mihi venis.

Car.
Ergo des minam auri nobis.

Pyrg.
Quam ob rem?

Car.
Salvis testibus
ut te hódie hinc amittamus Venerium nepotulum;
aliter hinc non ibis, ne sis frustra.

Pyrg.
Dabitur.

Car.
Magis sapis.

de tunica et chlamyde et machaera ne quid speres, non feres.

Car.
Verberon etiam, an iam mittis?

Pyrg.
Mitis sum equidem fustibus.
opsecro vos.

Per.
Solvite istunc.

Pyrg.
Gratiam habeo tibi.

Per.
Si posthac prehendero ego te híc, carebis testibus.

Pyrg.
Causam haud dico.

Per.
Eamus intro, Cario. —

Pyrg.
Servos meos
eccos video. Philocomasium iam profecta est? dic mihi.

Servvs
Iam dudum.

Pyrg.
Ei mihi.

Ser.
Magis dícas, si scias quod ego scio.
nam ille qui lánam ob oculum habebat laevom, nauta non erat.

Pyrg.

Quis erat igitur?

Ser.
Philocomasio amator.

Pyrg.
Qui tu scis?

Ser.
Scio.
nam postquam porta exierunt, nil cessarunt ilico
osculari atque amplexari inter se.

Pyrg.
Vae misero mihi,
verba mihi data esse video. scelus viri Palaestrio,
is me in hanc inlexit fraudem. iure factum iudico;
si sic aliis moechis fiat, minus hic moechorum siet,
magis metuant, minus has res studeant. eamus ad me. plaudite.

MOSTELLARIA

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ACT I.

Grvmio
Exi e culina sis foras, mastigia,
qui mi inter patinas exhibes argutias.
egredere, erilis permities, ex aedibus.
ego pol te ruri, si vivam, ulciscar probe.
exi, inquam, nidor, e culina. quid lates?

Tranio
quid tibi, malum, hic ante aedis clamitatiost?
an ruri censes te esse? abscede ab aedibus.
abi rús, abi díerecte, abscede ab ianua.
em, hocíne volebas?

Gr.
Perii. cur me verberas?

Tr.
Quia vivis.

Gr.
Patiar. sine modo adveniat senex.
sine modo venire salvom, quem absentem comes.

Tr.
Nec veri simile loquere nec verum, frutex,
comesse quemquam ut quisquam absentem possiet.

Gr.
Tu urbanus vero scurra, deliciae popli,
rus mihi tu obiectas? sane hoc, credo, Tranio,
quod te in pistrinum scis actutum tradier.
cis hercle paucas tempestates, Tranio,
augebis ruri numerum, genus ferratile.
nunc, dum tibi lúbet licetque, pota, perde rem,
corrumpe erilem ádulescentem óptumum;

dies noctesque bibite, pergraecamini,
amicas emite liberate, pascite
parasitos, obsonate pollucibiliter.
haecine mandavit tibi, quom peregre hinc it, senex?
hocine modo hic rem curatam offendet suam?
hocine boni esse officium servi existumas,
ut eri sui corrumpat et rem et filium?
nam ego illúm corruptum duco, quom his factis studet;
quo nemo adaeque iuventute ex omni Attica
antehac est habitus parcus nec magis continens,
is nunc in aliam partem palmam possidet.
virtute id factum tua et magisterio tuo.

Tr.
Quid tibi, malum, me aut quid ego agam curatiost?
an ruri quaeso non sunt, quos cures, bovis?
lubet potare, amare, scorta ducere.
mei tergi facio haec, non tui fiducia.

Gr.
Quam confidenter loquitur.

Tr.
At te Iuppiter
dique omnes perdant, fu, oboluisti alium.
germana inluvies, rusticus, hircus, hara suis,
caeno κοπρὼν commixte.

Gr.
Quid vis fieri?
non omnes possunt olere unguenta exotica,
si tú oles, neque superiores accumbere
neque tam facetis quam tu vivis victibus.
tu tíbi istos habeas turtures piscis avis,
sine me aliato fungi fortunas meas.
tu fortunatu's, ego miser: patiunda sunt.
meum bonum me, te tuom maneat malum.

Tr.
Quasi invidere mi hoc videre, Grumio,
quia mihi bene est et tibi male est; dignissumumst:
decet me amare et te bubulcitarier,
me victitare pulchre, te miseris modis.

Gr.
O carnuficium cribrum, quod credo fore,
ita te forabunt patibulatum per vias
stimulis carnufices, si huc reveniat senex.

Tr.
Qui scis, an tibi istuc evenat prius quam mihi?

Gr.
Quia numquam merui, tu meruisti et nunc meres.

Tr.
Orationis operam compendi face,
nisi te mala re magna mactari cupis.

Gr.
Ervom daturin estis, bubus quod feram?
date, si non estis. agite, porro pergite
quoniam occepistis: bibite, pergraecamini,
este, ecfercite vos, saginam caedite.

Tr.
Tace atque abi rús. ego ire in Piraeum volo,
in vesperum parare piscatum mihi.
ervom tibi aliquis cras faxo ad villam adferat.
quid est? quíd tu me nunc optuere, furcifer?

Gr.
Pol tibi istuc credo nomen actutum fore.

Tr.
Dum interea sic sit, istuc actutum sino.

Gr.
Ita est. sed unum hoc scito: nimio celerius
veniet quod noles quam illud, quod cupide petas.

Tr.
Molestus ne sis nunciam, i rus, te amove.
ne tu erres hercle praeterhac mihi non facies moram. —

Gr.
Satin abiit neque quod dixi flocci existumat?
pro di immortales, obsecro vostram fidem,
facite, huc ut redeat noster quam primum senex,
triennium qui iam hinc abest, prius quam omnia
periere, et aedis et ager; qui nisi huc redit,
paucorum mensum sunt relictae reliquiae.
nunc rus abibo. nam eccum erilem filium
video, corruptum ex adulescente optumo. —

Philolaches
Recórdatus múltum et diú cogitávi
argúmentaque ín pectus ínstitui multa
ego, átque in meó corde, si ést quod mihí cor,
eám rem volútavi et diú disputávi,
homineḿ cuius réi, quandó natus esset,
similem ésse arbitrárer simulácrumque habére:
id répperi iam exémplum.
novárum aedium ésse arbitrór similem ego hóminem,
quandó natus ést. ei rei argúmenta dícam.
atque hóc haud vidétur verí simile vóbis,
at ego id faciam esse ita ut credatis.
profécto ita esse út praedicó vera víncam.
atque hóc vosmet ípsi, sció, proinde utí nunc
ego ésse autumó, quando dícta audiétis
mea, haud áliter id dicétis.
auscúltate, argúmenta dúm dico ad hánc rem:
simúl gnarurís vos volo ésse hanc rem mécum.
aedés quom extempló sunt parátae, expolítae,

factaé probe examússim,
laudánt fabrum atque aedés probant, sibi quísque inde exemplum éxpetunt,
sibi quísque similis vólt suas, sumptum óperam non parcúnt suam.
átque ubi illo ímmigrat néquam homo, indíligens
cúm pigra fámilia, immúndus, instrénuos,
hic iam aédibus vitium ádditur, bonaé cum curantúr male;
átque illud saépe fit: témpestas venit,
cónfringit tégulas ímbricesque: ibi
dóminus indíligens réddere aliás nevolt;
vénit imber, pérlavit párietes, pérpluont,
tígna putéfacit, pérdit operám fabri:
néquior fáctus iam est úsus aedium.
átque ea haud ést fabri cúlpa, sed mágna pars
mórem hunc induxérunt: si quid númmo sarcirí potest,
úsque mantánt neque id fáciunt, donicum
párietes ruont: aédificantur aédes totae dénuo.
haec árgumenta ego aédificiis díxi; nunc etiám volo
dicére, ut homines aédium esse símilis arbitrémini.
primúmdum paréntes fabrí liberúm sunt:
ei fúndamentúm substruont liberórum;
extóllunt, paránt sedulo ín firmitátem
et ut in usum boni et in speciem†
popló sint sibíque, haud matériae repárcunt
nec súmptus ibí sumptuí esse dúcunt;
expóliunt: docént litterás, iura léges,
sumptú suo et labore
nitúntur, ut alií sibi esse illórum similis éxpetant.
ád legionem cum íta paratos míttunt, adminiclum eís danunt
tum iam, áliquem cognatúm suom.
eátenus. abeunt á fabris. únum ubi emeritum est stipendium,
igitúr tum specimen cérnitur, quo evéniat aedificátio.
nám ego ad illúd frugi usque ét probus fui,
ín fabrorúm potestáte dum fui.
póstea quom ímmigravi íngenium in meum,
pérdidi operám fabrorum ílico oppido.
vénit ignávia, ea míhi tempestás fuit,

mi ádventu suo grándinem imbremque attulit;
haéc verecúndiam mi ét virtutís modum
déturbavít detexítque a me ilico;
póstilla optígere me néglegens fui.
contínuo pro imbre amór advenit in cor meum,
is úsque in pectus pérmanavit, pérmadefecit cór meum.
núnc simul rés, fides, fáma, virtús, decus
déseruerunt: égo sum in usu fáctus nimio néquior.
atque édepol ita haec tigna úmide iam pútent: non videór mihi
sarcíre posse aedés meas, quin tótae perpetuaé ruant,
cum fúndamento périerint nec quísquam esse auxilió queat.
cór dolet, cum scio ut núnc sum atque ut fui,
quó neque indústrior dé iuventúte erat
quisquam nec clárior árte gymnástica:
dísco, hastís, pila, cúrsu, armís, equo
víctitabám volup,
párcimonia ét duritia díscipulinae aliís eram,
óptumi quique éxpetebant á me doctrinám sibi.
núnc, postquam nihilí sum, id vero meópte ingenio répperi.

Philemativm
Iam prídem ecastor frígida non lávi magis lubénter
nec quom me melius, mea Scapha, rear esse deficatam.

Sc.
Eventus rebus omnibus, velut horno messis magna
fuit.

Philem.
Quíd ea messis attinet ad meam lavationem?

Sc.
Nihilo plus quam lavatio tua ad messim.

Philol.
O Venus venusta,
haec illa est tempestas mea, mihi quae modestiam omnem

detexit, tectus qua fui; tum mihi Amor et Cupido
in pectus perpluit meum, neque iam umquam optigere possum:
madent iam in corde parietes, periere haec oppido aedis.

Philem.
Contempla, amabo, mea Scapha, satin haec me vestis deceat.
volo mé placere Philolachi, meo ocello, meo patrono.

Sc.
Quin tu te exornas moribus lepidis, quom lepida tute es?
non vestem amatores amant mulieris, sed vestis fartim.

Philol.
Ita me di ament, lepidast Scapha, sapit scelesta multum.
ut lepide omnes mores tenet sententiasque amantum.

Philem.
Quid nunc?

Sc.
Quid est?

Philem.
Quin me aspice et contempla, ut haec me deceat.

Sc.
Virtute formae id evenit, te ut deceat quidquid habeas.

Philol.
Ergo ob istuc verbum te, Scapha, donabo ego hodie aliqui,
neque patiar te istanc gratiis laudasse, quae placet mi.

Philem.
Nolo ego te adsentari mihi.

Sc.
Nimis tú quidem stulta es mulier.
eho, mavis vituperarier falso quam vero extolli?

equidem pol vel falso tamen laudari multo malo,
quam vero culpari aut meam speciem alios inridere.

Philem.
Ego verum amo, verum volo dici mihi: mendacem odi.

Sc.
Ita tu me ames, ita Philolaches tuos té amet, ut venusta es.

Philol.
Quid ais, scelesta? quo modo adiurasti? ita ego istam amarem?
quid istaéc me, id cur non additum est? infecta dona facio.
periisti: quod promiseram tibi donum, perdidisti.

Sc.
Equidem pol miror tam catam, tam docilem te et bene doctam
nunc stultam stulte facere.

Philem.
Quin mone quaéso, si quid erro.

Sc.
Tu ecastor erras, quae quidem illum expectes unum atque illi
morem praecipue sic geras atque alios asperneris.
matronae, non meretricium est unum inservire amantem.

Philol.
Pro Iuppiter, nam quod malum versatur meae domi illud?
di deaeque me omnes pessumis exemplis interficiant,
nisi ego illam anum interfecero siti fameque atque algu.

Philem.
Nolo ego mihi male te, Scapha, praecipere.

Sc.
Stulta es plane,
quae illum tibi aeternum putes fore amicum et benevolentem.
moneo ego te: te ille deseret aetate et satietate.

Philem.
Non spero.

Sc.
Insperata accidunt magis saépe quam quae speres.
postremo, si dictis nequis perduci, ut vera haec credas
mea dicta, ex factis nosce rem. vides quaé sim; et quae fui ante.
nihilo ego quam nunc tu ... amata sum; átque uni modo gessi morem:
qui pol me, ubi aetate hoc caput colorem commutavit,
reliquit deseruitque me. tibi idem futurum credo.

Philol.
Vix comprimor, quin involem illi in oculos stimulatrici.

Philem.
Solam ille me soli sibi suo sumptu liberavit:
illi me soli censeo esse oportere opsequentem.

Philol.
Pro di immortales, mulierem lepidam et pudico ingenio.
bene hercle factum et gaudeo mihi nihil esse huius causa.

Sc.
Inscita ecastor tu quidem es.

Philem.
Quapropter?

Sc.
Quae istuc cures,
ut te ille amet.

Philem.
Cur obsecro non curem?

Sc.
Libera es iam.
tu iam quod quaerebas habes: ille té nisi amabit ultro,

id pro tuo capite quod dedit perdiderit tantum argenti.

Philol.
Perii hercle, ni ego illam pessumis exemplis enicasso.
illa hanc corrumpit mulierem malesuada † vitilena.

Philem.
Numquam ego illi possum gratiam referre ut meritust de me.
Scapha, id tu mihi ne suadeas, ut illúm minoris pendam.

Sc.
At hoc únum facito cogites: si illum inservibis solum
dum tibi nunc haec aetatulast, in sénecta male querere.

Philol.
In anginam ego nunc me velim verti, ut veneficae illi
fauces prehendam atque enicem scelestam stimulatricem.

Philem.
Eundem ánimum oportet nunc mihi esse gratum, ut impetravi,
atque olim, prius quam id extudi, quom illi subblandiebar.

Philol.
Divi me faciant quod volunt, ni ob istam orationem
te liberasso denuo et ni Scapham enicasso.

Sc.
Si tibi sat acceptum est fore tibi victum sempiternum
atque illum amatorem tibi proprium futurum in vita,
soli gerundum censeo morem et capiundas crines.

Philem.
Vt fama est homini, exin solet pecuniam invenire.
ego si bonam famam mihi servasso, sat ero dives.

Philol.
Siquidem hércle vendundust pater, venibit multo potius,
quam te me vivo umquam sinam egere aut mendicare.

Sc.
Quid illís futurum est ceteris qui té amant?

Philem.
Magis amabunt,
quom me videbunt gratiam referre bene merenti.

Philol.
Vtinam nunc meus emortuos pater ad me nuntietur,
ut ego exheredem meis bonis me faciam atque haec sit heres.

Sc.
Iam ista quidem absumpta res erit: dies nóctesque estur bibitur,
neque quisquam parsimoniam adhibet: sagina plane est.

Philol.
In te hercle certumst principe ut sim parcus experiri,
nam neque edes quicquam neque bibes apud me his decem diebus.

Philem.
Si quid tu in illum bene voles loqui, id loqui licebit:
nec recte si illi dixeris, iam ecastor vapulabis.

Philol.
Edepol si summo Ióvi bovi eo argénto sacruficassem,
pro illius capite quod dedi, numquam aeque id bene locassem.
videas eam medullitus me amare. oh, probus homo sum:
quae pro me causam diceret, patronum liberavi.

Sc.
Video te nihili pendere prae Philolache omnis homines.
nunc, ne eius causa vapulem, tibi potius adsentabor.
si acceptum sat habes, tibi fore illum amicum sempiternum.

Philem.
Cédo mi speculum et cum ornamentis arculam actutum, Scapha,
ornata ut sim, quom huc adveniat Philolaches voluptas mea.

Sc.
Mulier quae se suamque aetatem spernit, speculo ei usus est:
quid opust speculo tibi, quae tute speculo speculum es maxumum?

Philol.
Ob istuc verbum, ne nequiquam, Scapha, tam lepide dixeris,
dabo aliquid hodie peculi tibi, Philematium mea.

Philem.
Suo quique loco (viden?) capillus satis compositust commode.

Sc.
Vbi tu commoda es, capillum commodum esse credito.

Philol.
Vah, quid illá pote peius quicquam muliere memorarier?
nunc adsentatrix scelesta est, dudum adversatrix erat.

Philem.
Cedo cerussam.

Sc.
Quid cerussa opust nám?

Philem.
Qui malas oblinam.

Sc.
Vna operá ebur atramento candefacere postules.

Philol.
Lepide dictum de atramento atque ebore. euge, plaudo Scaphae.

Philem.
Tum tu igitur cedo purpurissum.

Sc.
Non do. scita es tu quidem.

nova pictura interpolare vis opus lepidissimum?
non istanc aetatem oportet pigmentum ullum attingere,
neque cerussam neque melinum, neque aliam ullam offuciam.

Philem.
Cape igitur speculum.

Philol.
Ei mihi misero, savium speculo dedit.
nimis velim lapidem, qui ego illi speculo diminuam caput.

Sc.
Linteum cape atque exterge tibi manus.

Philem.
Quid ita, obsecro?

Sc.
Vt speculum tenuisti, metuo né olant argentum manus:
ne usquam argentum te accepisse suspicetur Philolaches.

Philol.
Non videor vidisse lenam callidiorem ullam alteras.
ut lepide atque astute in mentem venit de speculo malae.

Philem.
Etiamne unguentis unguendam censes?

Sc.
Minime feceris.

Philem.
Quapropter?

Sc.
Quia ecastor mulier recte olet, ubi nihil olet.
nam istae veteres, quae se unguentis unctitant, interpoles,
vetulae, edentulae, quae vitia corporis fuco occulunt,

ubi sese sudor cum unguentis consociavit, ilico
itidem olent, quasi cum una multa iura confudit cocus.
quid olant nescias, nisi id unum, † ni male olere intellegas.

Philol.
Vt perdocte cuncta callet. nihil hac docta doctius.
verum illud ésse maxima adeo pars vestrorum intellegit,
quibus anus domi súnt uxores, quae vos dote meruerunt.

Philem.
Agedum contempla aurum et pallam, satin haec me deceat,
Scapha.

Sc.
Non me istuc curare oportet.

Philem.
Quem obsecro igitur?

Sc.
Eloquar:
Philolachem, is ne quid emat, nisi quod sibi placere censeat.
nám amator meretricis mores sibi emit auro et purpura.
quid opust, quod suom esse nolit, ei ultro ostentarier?
purpura aetati occultandaest, aurum turpi mulieri.
pulchra mulier nuda erit quam purpurata pulchrior:
poste nequiquam exornata est bene, si morata est male.
pulchrum ornatum turpes mores peius caeno conlinunt.
nam si pulchra est, nimis ornata est.

Philol.
Nimis diu abstineo manum.
quid hic vos agitis?

Philem.
Tibi me exorno út placeam.

Philol.

Ornata es satis.
abi tu hinc intro atque ornamenta haec aufer. sed, voluptas mea,
mea Philematium, potare tecum conlibitum est mihi.

Philem.
Et edepol mihi tecum, nam quod tibi libet idem mihi libet,
mea voluptas.

Philol.
Em istuc verbum vile est viginti minis.

Philem.
Cedo, amabo, decem: bene emptum tibi dare hoc verbum volo.

Philol.
Etiam nunc decem minae apud te sunt; vel rationem puta.
triginta minas pro capite tuo dedi.

Philem.
Cur exprobras?

Philol.
Egone id exprobrem, qui mihimet cupio id opprobrarier?
nec quicquam argenti locavi iam diu usquam aeque bene.

Philem.
Certe ego, quod te amo, operam nusquam melius potui ponere.

Philol.
Bene igitur ratio accepti atque expensi inter nos convenit:
tu me amas, ego té amo; merito id fieri uterque existimat.
haec qui gaudent, gaudeant perpetuo suo semper bono;
qui invident, ne umquam eorum quisquam invideat prosus
commodis.

Philem.
Age accumbe igitur. cedo aquam manibus, puere, appone hic
mensulam.

vide, tali ubi sint. vin unguenta?

Philol.
Quid opust? cum stacta accubo.
sed estne hic meus sodalis, qui huc incedit cúm amica sua?
is est, Callidamates cum amica incedit. euge, oculus meus,
conveniunt manuplares eccos: praedam participes petunt.

Callidamates
Advérsum veníri mihi ád Philolachétem
voló temperi. aúdi, em tibi ímperatum est.
nam ílli ubi fui, inde éffugi foras,
ita me íbi male convívi sermónisque taésumst.
nunc cómissatum íbo ad Phílolachetem,
ubi nós hilari ingénio et lépide accipient.
ecquíd tibi videór mammamadére?

Delphivm
Sémper istóc modo.
morátu's tu te. íre huc debébas.

Call.

Visne égo te ac tu me ampléctare?

Del.

Si tíbi cordi est faceré, licet.

Call.

Lépida es.
dúc me amabó.

Del.

Cave né cadas, ásta.

Call.

O — o — ocellús meus, túos sum alumnus, mél meum.

Del.

Cáve modo, né prius ín via accúmbas,
quam ílli, ubi léctus est strátus, concúmbimus.

Call.

Síne, sine cádere me.

Del.

Síno, sed hoc, quod mi in manu est:
sí cades, nón cades quín cadam técum.

Call.

Iacéntis tollet póstea nos ámbos aliquis.

Del.

Madet hómo.

Call.

Tun me ais mammámadere?

Del.

Cedo mánum, nolo equidem te ádfligi.

Call.

Em téne.

Del.

Age, i símul.

Call.

Quo ego eam?

Del.

An nescis?

Call.

Scio, ín mentem venít modo:
nempe dómum eo comissátum.

Del.

Immo, ístuc quidem.

Call.

Iam mémini.

Philol.
Núm non vis me óbviam hís ire, anime mi?
ílli ego ex ómnibus óptume volo.
iám revertár.

Philem.
Diu ést iam id mihi.

Call.

Écquis hic ést?

Philol.
Adest.

Call.

Eú, Philolaches,

sálve, amicíssime mi ómnium hominum.

Philol.
Dí te ament. áccuba, Cállidamates.
únde agis te?

Call.

Únde homo ébrius probe.

Philem.
Quín amabo áccubas, Délphium mea?
da ílli quod bibat.

Call.

Dórmiam ego iam.

Philol.
Núm mirum aut novom quíppiam facit?

Del.

Quíd ego hoc faciam póstea?

Philem.
Mea, síc sine eumpse.
age tu ínterim da ab Délphio cito cántharum circum.

ACT II.

Tranio
Iúppiter supremus summis opibus atque industriis
me periisse et Philolachetem cupit erilem filium.
occidit Spes nostra, nusquam stabulum est Confidentiae,
nec Salus nobis saluti iam esse, si cupiat, potest:
ita mali, maeroris montem maximum ad portum modo
conspicatus sum: erus advenit peregre, periit Tranio.
ecquis homo est, qui facere argenti cupiat aliquantum lucri,
quí hodie sese excruciari meam vicem possit pati?
ubi sunt isti plagipatidae, ferritribaces viri,
vel isti qui hosticas trium númmum causa subeunt sub falas,
ubi quinis aut denis hastis corpus transfigi solet?
ego dabo ei talentum, primus qui in crucem excucurrerit;
sed ea lege, ut offigantur bis pedes, bis bracchia.
ubi id erit factum, a me argentum petito praesentarium.
sed ego — sumne infelix, qui non curro curriculo domum?

Philol.
Adest adest opsonium. eccum Tranio a portu redit.

Tr.
Philolaches.

Philol.
Quid est?

Tr.
Et ego et tu —

Philol.
Quid et ego et tu?

Tr.
Periimus.

Philol.
Quid ita?

Tr.
Pater adest.

Philol.
Quid ego ex te aúdio?

Tr.
Absumpti sumus.
pater inquam tuos venit.

Philol.
Vbi is est, obsecro?

Tr.
... adest.

Philol.
Quis id ait? quis vidit?

Tr.
Egomet inquam vidi.

Philol.
Vae mihi.
quid ego ago?

Tr.
Nam quid tu, malum, me rogitas quid agas? accubas.

Philol.
Tutin vidisti?

Tr.
Egomet, inquam.

Philol.

Certe?

Tr.
Certe inquam.

Philol.
Occidi,
si tu vera memoras.

Tr.
Quid mihi sit boni, si mentiar?

Philol.
Quid ego nunc faciam?

Tr.
Iube haec hinc omnia amolirier.
quis istic dormit?

Philol.
Callidamates.

Tr.
Suscita istum, Delphium.

Del.

Callidamates, Callidamates, vigila.

Call.

Vigilo, cedo ut bibam.

Del.

Vigila. pater advenit peregre Philolachis.

Call.

Valeat pater.

Philol.
Valet ille quidem, atque ego disperii.

Call.

Bis periisti? qui potest?

Philol.
Quaeso edepol, exsurge; pater advenit.

Call.

Tuos venit pater?
iube abíre rursum. quíd illi reditio etiam húc fuit?

Philol.
Quid ego agam? pater iam híc me offendet miserum adveniens ebrium,
aedis plenas convivarum et mulierum. miserum est opus,
igitur demum fodere puteum, úbi sitis fauces tenet;
sicut ego adventu patris nunc quaero quid faciam miser.

Tr.
Ecce autem iterum hic deposivit caput et dormit. suscita.

Philol.
Etiam vigilas? pater, inquam, aderit iam hic meus.

Call.

Ain tu, pater?
cedo soleas mihi, ut arma capiam. iam pol ego occidam patrem.

Philol.
Perdis rem.

Del.

Tace, amabo.

Tr.
Abripite hunc intro actutum inter manus.

Call.

Iam hercle ego vos pro matula habebo, nisi mihi matulam datis.

Philol.
Perii.

Tr.
Habe bonum animum: ego istum lepide medicabo metum.

Philol.
Nullus sum.

Tr.
Taceas: ego qui istaec sedem meditabor tibi.
satin habes, si ego advenientem íta patrem faciam tuom,
non modo ne intro eat, verum etiam ut fugiat longe ab aedibus?
vos modo hinc abite intro atque haec hinc propere amolimini.

Philol.
Vbi ego ero?

Tr.
Vbi maxime esse vis: cum hác, cum istac eris.

Del.

Quid si igitur abeamus hinc nos?

Tr.
Non hoc longe, Delphium.
nam intus potate hau tantillo hác quidem causa minus.

Philol.

Ei mihi, quam ístaec blanda dicta quo evenant madeo metu.

Tr.
Potin animó ut sis quieto et facias quod iubeo?

Philol.
Potest.

Tr.
Omnium primum, Philematium, intro abi, et tu, Delphium.

Del.

Morigerae tibi erimus ambae. —

Tr.
Ita ille faxit Iuppiter.
animum advorte nunciam tu quae volo accurarier.
omnium primumdum aédes iam face occlusae sient;
intus cave muttire quemquam siveris.

Philol.
Curabitur.

Tr.
Tamquam si intus natus nemo in aedibus habitet.

Philol.
Licet.

Tr.
Neu quisquam responset, quando hasce aedis pultabit senex.

Philol.
Numquid aliud?

Tr.
Clavem mi harunc aedium Laconicam
iam iube efferri intus: hasce ego aedis occludam hinc foris.

Philol.
In tuam cústodelam meque et meas spes trado, Tranio. —

Tr.
Pluma haud interest, patronus an cliens probior siet.
Homini, cui nulla in pectore est audacia,
nam cuivis homini, vel optumo vel pessumo
quamvis desubito facile est facere nequiter:
verum id videndum est, id viri docti est opus,
quae designata sint et facta nequiter,
tranquille cuncta et ut proveniant sine malo,
ne quid potiatur, quam ob rem pigeat vivere.
sicut ego efficiam, quae facta hic turbavimus,
profecto ut liqueant omnia et tranquilla sint
neque quicquam nobis pariant ex se incommodi.
sed quid tu egredere, Sphaerio?

Pver
Iamiam ...

...

Tr.
Optime.
praeceptis paruisti.

Pver.
Iussit maximo
opere orare, ut patrem aliquo absterreres modo,
ne intro iret ad se.

Tr.
Quin etiam illi hoc dicito,
facturum me, ut ne etiam aspicere aedis audeat,
capite obvoluto ut fugiat cum summo metu.
clavem cedo atque abi intro atque occlude ostium,
et ego hinc occludam. — iube venire nunciam.
ludos ego hodie vivo praesenti hic seni

faciam, quod credo mortuo numquam fore.
concedam a foribus huc, hinc speculabor procul,
unde advenienti sarcinam imponam seni.

Theopropides
Habeo, Neptune, gratiam magnam tibi,
quom med amisisti abs te vix vivom domum.
verum si posthac me pedem latum modo
scies ímposisse in undam, hau causast, ilico
quod nunc voluisti facere quin facias mihi.
apage, apage te a me nunciam post hunc diem:
quod crediturus tibi fui, omne credidi.

Tr.
Edepol, Neptune, peccavisti largiter,
qui occasionem hanc amisisti tam bonam.

Th.
Triennio post Aegypto advenio domum;
credo exspectatus veniam familiaribus.

Tr.
Nimio edepol ille potuit exspectatior
venire, qui te nuntiaret mortuom.

Th.
Sed quid hoc? occlusa ianua est interdius.
pultabo. heus, ecquis intust? aperitin fores?

Tr.
Quis homo est, qui nostras aedes accessit prope?

Th.
Meus sérvos hic quidem est Tranio.

Tr.
O Theopropides,
ere, salve, salvom te advenisse gaudeo.

usquin valuisti?

Th.
Vsque ut vides.

Tr.
Factum optime.

Th.
Quid vos? insanin estis?

Tr.
Quidum?

Th.
Sic, quia
foris ámbulatis, natus nemo in aedibus
servat, neque qui recludat neque † quis respondeat.
pultando pedibus paene confregi hasce ambas foris.

Tr.
Eho an tú tetigisti has aedis?

Th.
Cur non tangerem?
quin pultando, inquam, paene confregi foris.

Tr.
Tetigistin?

Th.
Tetigi, inquam, et pultavi.

Tr.
Vah.

Th.
Quid est?

Tr.
Male hercle factum.

Th.
Quid est negoti?

Tr.
Non potest
dici, quam indignum facinus fecisti et malum.

Th.
Quid iam?

Tr.
Fuge, obsecro, atque abscede ab aedibus.
fuge huc, fuge ad me propius. tetigistin foris?

Th.
Quo modo pultare potui, si non tangerem?

Tr.
Occidisti hercle —

Th.
Quem mortalem?

Tr.
Omnis tuos.

Th.
Di te deaeque ómnes faxint cum istoc omine —

Tr.
Metuo, te atque istos expiare ut possies.

Th.
Quam ob rem? aut quam subito rem mihi adportas novam?

...

Tr.
Et heus, iube illos illinc ambo abscedere.

Th.
Apscedite.

Tr.
Aedes ne attigatis. tangite
vos quoque terram.

Th.
Obsecro hercle, quin eloquere ...
40 ...

Tr.
Quia septem menses sunt, quom in hasce aedis pedem
nemo intro tetulit, semel ut emigravimus.

Th.
Eloquere, quid ita?

Tr.
Circumspicedum, numquis est,
sermonem nostrum qui aucupet?

Th.
Tutum probest.

Tr.
45 Circumspice etiam.

Th.
Nemo est. loquere nunciam.

Tr.
Capitale scelus est.

Th.

Quid est? non satis intellego.

Tr.
Scelus, inquam, factum est iam diu, antiquom et vetus.

Th.
Antiquom?

Tr.
Id adeo nos nunc factum invenimus.

Th.
Quid istúc est sceleris? aut quis id fecit? cedo.

Tr.
Hospes necavit hospitem captum manu;
iste, ut ego opinor, qui has tibi aedis vendidit.

Th.
Necavit?

Tr.
Aurumque ei ademit hospiti
eumque híc defodit hospitem íbidem in aedibus.

Th.
Quapropter id vos factum suspicamini?

Tr.
Ego dicam, ausculta. út foris cenaverat
tuos gnátus, postquam rediit a cena domum,
abimus omnes cubitum; condormivimus:
lucernam forte oblitus fueram exstinguere;
atque ille exclamat derepente maximum.

Th.
Quis homo? án gnatus meus?

Tr.
St, tace, ausculta modo.
ait vénisse illum in somnis ad se mortuom.

Th.
Nempe ergo in somnis?

Tr.
Ita. sed ausculta modo.
ait illum hoc pacto sibi dixisse mortuom.

Th.
In somnis?

Tr.
Mirum quin vigilanti diceret,
qui abhinc sexaginta annos occisus foret.
interdum inepte stultus es, Theopropides.

Th.
Taceo.

Tr.
Sed ecce quae illi in ...
“ego transmarinus hospes sum Diapontius.
hic habito, haéc mihi dedita est habitatio.
nam me Acheruntem recipere Orcus noluit,
quia praemature vita careo. per fidem
deceptus sum: hospes hic me necavit isque me
defodit insepultum clám ibidem in hisce aedibus,
scelestus, auri causa. nunc tu hinc emigra.
scelestae haé sunt aedes, impia est habitatio”.
quae hic monstra fiunt, anno vix possum eloqui.

Th.
St, st.

Tr.

Quid, obsecro hercle, factum est?

Th.
Concrepuit foris.

Tr.
Hicin percussit!

Th.
Guttam haud habeo sanguinis,
vivom me accersunt Acheruntem mortui.

Tr.
Perii, illisce hodie hanc conturbabunt fabulam.
nimis quám formido, ne manifesto hic me opprimat.

Th.
Quid tute tecum loquere?

Tr.
Abscede ab ianua.
fuge, obsecro hercle.

Th.
Quo fugiam? etiam tu fuge.

Tr.
Nihil ego formido, pax mihi est cum mortuis.

Intvs.
Heus, Tranio.

Tr.
Non me appellabis, si sapis.
nihil ego commerui, neque istas percussi fores.

Intvs.
Quaeso — >

Tr.
Cave verbum faxis.

Th.
Dic quid segreges
sermonem.

Tr.
Apage hinc te.

Th.
Quae res te agitat, Tranio?
quicum istaec loquere?

Tr.
An quaeso tu appellaveras?
ita me di amabunt, mortuom illum credidi
expostulare quia percussisses fores.
sed tu, etiamne astas nec quae dico optemperas?

Th.
Quid faciam?

Tr.
Cave respexis, fuge, atque operi caput.

Th.
Cur non fugis tu?

Tr.
Pax mihi est cum mortuis.

Th.
Scio. quíd modo igitur? cur tanto opere extimueras?

Tr.
Nil me curassis, inquam, ego mihi providero:
tu, ut occepisti, tantum quantum quis fuge,

atque Herculem invoca.

Th.
Hercules, ted invoco. —

Tr.
Et ego — tibi hodie ut det, senex, magnum malum.
pro di immortales, obsecro vestram fidem,
quid ego hodie negoti confeci mali.

ACT III.

Danista
Scelestiorem ego annum argento faenori
numquam ullum vidi quam hic mihi annus optigit.
a mani ad noctem usque in foro dego diem,
locare argenti nemini nummum queo.

Tr.
Nunc pol ego perii plane in perpetuom modum.
danista adest, qui dedit argentum faenore,
qui amica est empta quoque opus in sumptus fuit.
manifesta res est, nisi quid occurro prius,
ne hóc senex resciscat. ibo huic obviam.
sed quidnam hic sese tam cito recipit domum?
metuo ne de hac re quippiam indaudiverit.
accedam atque adpellabo. ei quam timeo miser.
nihil est miserius quam animus hominis conscius,
sicut me † habet. verum utut res sese habet,
pergam turbare porro: ita haec res postulat.
unde is?

Theopropides
Conveni illum unde hasce aedis emeram.

Tr.
Numquid dixisti de illo quod dixi tibi?

Th.
Dixi hercle vero ómnia.

Tr.
Ei misero mihi,
metuo ne techinae meae perpetuo perierint.

Th.
Quid tute tecum?

Tr.
Nihil enim. sed dic mihi,
dixtine quaeso?

Th.
Dixi, inquam, ordine omnia.

Tr.
Etiam fatetur de hospite?

Th.
Immo pernegat.

Tr.
Negat scelestus?

Th.
Negitat inquam.

Tr.
Cogita:
non confitetur?

Th.
Dicam si confessus sit.
quid nunc faciundum censes?

Tr.
Egon quid censeam?
cape, obsecro hercle, cúm eo úna iudicem
(sed eum videto ut capias, qui credat mihi):
tam facile vinces quam pirum volpes comest.

Dan.
Sed Philolachetis servom éccum Tranium,
qui mihi neque faenus neque sortem argenti danunt.

Th.

Quo té agis?

Tr.
Nec quoquam abeo. né ego sum miser,
scelestus, natus dis inimicis omnibus.
iam illo praesente adibit. ne ego homo sum miser,
ita et hinc et illinc mi exhibent negotium.
sed occupabo adire.

Dan.
Hic ad me it, salvos sum,
spes est de argento.

Tr.
Hílarus est: frustra est homo.
salvere iubeo te, Misargyrides, bene.

Dan.
Salve et tu. quid de argentost?

Tr.
Abi sis, belua.
continuo adveniens pilum iniecisti mihi.

Dan.
Hic homo est inanis.

Tr.
Hic homo est certe hárіolus.

Dan.
Quin tu istas mittis tricas?

Tr.
Quin quid vis cedo.

Dan.
Vbi Philolaches est?

Tr.
Numquam potuisti mihi
magis opportunus advenire quam advenis.

Dan.
Quid est?

Tr.
Concede huc.

Dan.
Quin mihi faenus redditur?

Tr.
Scio té bona esse voce, ne clama nimis.

Dan.
Ego hercle vero clamo.

Tr.
Ah, gere morem mihi.

Dan.
Quid tibi ego morem vis geram?

Tr.
Abi quaeso hinc domum.

Dan.
Abeam?

Tr.
Redito huc circiter meridie.

Dan.
Reddeturne igitur faenus?

Tr.
Reddeturne. abi.

Dan.
Quid ego huc recursem aut operam sumam aut conteram?
quid si hic manebo potius ad meridie?

Tr.
Immo abi domum, verum hercle dico, abi modo.

...

Dan.
Quin vos mihi faenus date. quid hic nugamini?

Tr.
Eu hércle, ne tu — abi modo, ausculta mihi.

Dan.
Iam hercle ego illum nominabo. ...

Tr.
Euge strenue.
beatus vero es nunc, quom clamas.

Dan.
Meum peto.
multos me hoc pacto iam dies frustramini.
molestus si sum, reddite argentum: abiero.
responsiones omnes hoc verbo eripis.

Tr.
Sortem accipe.

Dan.
Immo faenus, id primum volo.

Tr.
Quid ais tu, ómnium hominum taeterrime?
venisti huc te extentatum? agas quod in manu est.
non dat, non debet.

Dan.
Non debet?

Tr.
Ne frit quidem
ferre hinc potes. an metuis ne quo abeat foras
urbe exulatum faenoris causa tui,
quoi sortem accipere iam licet?

Dan.
Quin non peto
sortem: illuc primum, faenus, reddundum est mihi.

Tr.
Molestus ne sis. nemo dat, age quid lubet.
tu solus, credo, faenore argentum datas.

Dan.
Cedo faenus, redde faenus, faenus reddite.
daturin estis faenus actutum mihi?
datur faenus mihi?

Tr.
Faenus illic, faenus hic.
nescit quidem nisi faenus fabularier.
ultro te. neque ego taetriorem beluam
vidisse me umquam quemquam quam te censeo.

Dan.
Non edepol tu nunc me istis verbis territas.

Th.
... calidum hoc est: etsi procul abest, urit male. ...
quod illúc est faenus, opsecro, quod illíc petit?

Tr.
Pater eccum advenit peregre non multo prius
illius, is tibi et faénus et sortem dabit,

ne inconciliare quid nos porro postules.
vide num moratur.

Dan.
Quin feram, si quid datur.

Th.
Quid ais tu?

Tr.
Quid vis?

Th.
Quis illic est? quid illíc petit?
quid Philolachetem gnatum compellat meum
sic et praesenti tibi facit convicium?
quid illí debetur?

Tr.
Obsecro hercle, illud iube
obici illi argentum ob os impurae beluae.

Th.
Iubeam — ?

Tr.
Iuben homini argento os verberarier?

Dan.
Perfacile ego ictus perpetior argenteos.

Tr.
Audin? videturne, obsecro hercle, idoneus,
danista qui sit, genus quod improbissimum est.

Th.
Non ego istuc curo qui sit quid sit unde sit:
id volo mihi dici, id me scire éxpeto,

quod illud argentum est?

Tr.
Est — huic debet Philolaches
paulum.

Th.
Quantillum?

Tr.
Quasi — quadraginta minas;
ne sane id multum censeas.

Th.
Paulum id quidem est.
adeo etiam argenti faenus creditum audio.

Tr.
Quattuor quadraginta illi debentur minae,
et sors et faenus.

Dan.
Tantumst, nihilo plus peto.

Tr.
Velim quidem hercle ut uno nummo plus petas.
dic te daturum, ut abeat.

Th.
Egon dicam dare?

Tr.
Dic.

Th.
Egone?

Tr.

Tu ipsus. dic modo, ausculta mihi.
promitte, age inquam: ego iubeo.

Th.
Responde mihi:
quid eo est argento factum?

Tr.
Salvom est.

Th.

Solvite
vosmet igitur, si salvomst.

Tr.
Aedis filius
tuos emit.

Th.
Aedis?

Tr.
Aedis.

Th.
Euge, Philolaches
patrissat: iám homo in mercatura vortitur.
ain tu, aedis?

Tr.
Aedis inquam. sed scin quoius modi?

Th.
Qui scire possum?

Tr.
Vah.

Th.
Quid est?

Tr.
Ne me roga.

Th.
Nam quid ita?

Tr.
Speculo claras, candorem merum.

Th.
Bene hercle factum. quid, eas quanti destinat?

Tr.
Talentis magnis totidem quot ego et tu sumus.
sed arraboni has dedit quadraginta minas;
hinc sumpsit quas ei dedimus. satin intellegis?
nam postquam haec aedes ita erant, ut dixi tibi,
continuo est alias aedis mercatus sibi.

Th.
Bene hercle factum.

Dan.
Heus, iam adpetit meridie.

Tr.
Absolve hunc quaeso, vomitu ne hic nos enecet.

Th.
Adulescens, mecum rém habe.

Dan.
Nempe aps te petam?

Th.

Petito cras.

Dan.
Abeo: sat habeo, si cras fero. —

Tr.
Malum quod isti di deaeque omnes duint,
ita mea consilia perturbat paenissime.
nullum edepol hodie genus est hominum taetrius
nec minus bono cum iure, quam danisticum.

Th.
Qua in regione istas aedis emit filius?

Tr.
Ecce autem perii.

Th.
Dicisne hoc quod te rogo?

Tr.
Dicam. sed nomen domini quaero quid siet.

Th.
Age comminiscere ergo.

Tr.
Quid ego nunc agam,
nisi ut in vicinum hunc proximum ... ,
eas émisse aedis huius dicam filium?
calidum hercle esse audivi optimum mendacium.
quidquid dei dicunt, id decretumst dicere.

Th.
Quid igitur? iam commentu's?

Tr.
Di istum perduint —

(immo istunc potius) de vicino hoc proximo
tuos emit aedis filius.

Th.
Bonan fide?

Tr.
Siquidém tu argentum reddituru's, tum bona,
si redditurus non es, non emit bona.
non in loco emit perbono?

Th.
Immo in optumo.
cupio hercle inspicere hasce aedis. pultadum fores
atque evoca aliquem íntus ad te, Tranio.

Tr.
Ecce autem perii. nunc quid dicam nescio.
iterum iam ad unum saxum me fluctus ferunt.
quid nunc? non hercle quid nunc faciam reperio:
manufesto teneor.

Th.
Evocadum aliquem ocius,
roga círcumducat.

Tr.
Heus tu, at hic sunt mulieres:
videndumst primum, utrum eae velintne an non velint.

Th.
Bonum aequomque oras. i, percontare et roga.
ego hic tantisper, dum exis, te opperiar foris.

Tr.
Di te deaeque ómnes funditus perdant, senex,
itá mea consilia undique oppugnas male.
euge, optume eccum aédium dominus foras

Simo progreditur intus. huc concessero,
dum mihi senatum consili in cor convoco.
igitur tum accedam hunc, quando quid agam invenero.

Simo
Mélius anno hóc mihi nón fuit domi,
néc quod una ésca me iúverit magis.
prándium uxór mihi pérbonum dedit,
núnc dormitúm iubet me íre: minime.
nón mihi fórte visum ílico fuit,
mélius quom prándium quám solet dedit:
vóluit in cúbiculum abdúcere me anus.
nón bonust sómnus de prándio. apage.
clánculum ex aédibus me édidi foras.
tóta turgét mihi uxór, scio, domi.

Tr.
Rés parata ést mala in vésperum huic seni.
nam ét cenandum ét cubandúmst ei male.

Si.
Quóm magis cógito cúm meo animo:
sí quis dotátam uxorem átque anum habet,
néminem sóllicitat sópor: ibi omnibus
íre dormítum odio est véluti nunc mihi
éxsequi cérta res ést, ut abeam
pótius hinc ád forum quám domi cubem.
átque pol néscio, ut móribus sient
vóstrae: haec sát scio quám me habeat male.

...

péius posthác fore quám fuit mihi.

Tr.
Ábitus tuos tíbi, senex, fécerit male:
níhil erit, quód deorum úllum accusites;
te ípse iure óptimo mérito incusés licet.

témpus nunc ést senem hunc ádloqui mihi.
hóc habet. répperi quí senem dúcerem,
quó dolo a mé dolorém procul péllerem.
áccedam. dí te ament plúrimum, Simo.

Si.
Sálvos sis, Tránio.

Tr.
Út vales?

Si.
Nón male.
quíd agis?

Tr.
Hominem óptumum téneo.

Si.
Amicé facis,
quóm me laudás.

Tr.
Decet.

Si.
Cérte. quin mutuomst:
hércle ted haú bonum téneo servóm manu.

Theopr.
Heía, mastígia, ad mé redi.

Tr.
Iam ísti ero.

Si.
quíd nunc? quam móx?

Tr.
Quid est?

Si.
Quód solet fíeri hic
íntus.

Tr.
Quid id est?

Si.
Scis iam quíd loquar. síc decet.
... morem geras.
víta quam sít brevis, ... simul cógita.

Tr.
... quid ... ehem,
víx tandem percépi super his rébus nostris té loqui.

Si.
músice hercle ágitis aetátem, ita ut vós decet,
vino et victu probo, piscatu electili
vitam colitis. †

Tr.
Immo vita antehac erat:
nunc nobis omnia haec exciderunt simul.

Si.
Quidum?

Tr.
Ita óppido occidimus omnes, Simo.

Si.
Non taces? prospere vobis cuncta usque adhuc
processerunt.

Tr.
Ita ut dicis facta hau nego.
nos profecto probe ut voluimus viximus.
séd, Simo, ita nunc ventus navem nostram deseruit.

Si.
Quid est?
quó modo?

Tr.
Péssimo.

Si.
Quaéne subdúcta erat
túto in terra?

Tr.
Eí.

Si.
Quid est?

Tr.
Mé miserum, occidi.

Si.
Quí?

Tr.
Quia venit navis, nostrae navi quae frangat † ratem.

Si.
Vellem út tu velles, Tranio. sed quid est negoti?

Tr.
Eloquar.
erus péregre venit.

Si.
Tunc tibi ... portenditur,
inde férriterium, postea crux.

Tr.
Per tua te genua obsecro,
ne indícium ero facias meo.

Si.
É me, ne quid metuas, nil sciet.

Tr.
Patrone, salve.

Si.
Nil moror mi istius modi clientis.

Tr.
Nunc hoc quod ad te noster me misit senex —

Si.
Hoc mihi responde primum, quod ego te rogo:
iam de istis rebus voster quid sensit senex?

Tr.
Nil quicquam.

Si.
Numquid increpavit filium?

Tr.
Tam liquidust quam liquida esse tempestas solet ...
nunc te hoc orare iussit opere maximo,
ut sibi liceret inspicere hasce aedis tuas.

Si.
Non sunt venales.

Tr.
Scio equidem istuc. sed senex
gynaeceum aedificare volt hic in suis
et balineas et ambulacrum et porticum.

Si.
Quid ergo somniavit?

Tr.
Ego dicam tibi.
dare volt uxorem filio quantum potest,
ad eam rem facere volt novom gynaeceum.
nam sibi laudavisse hasce ait architectonem
nescio quem exaedificatas insanum bene;
nunc hinc exemplum capere volt, nisi tu nevis.
nam ille eo maiore hinc opere ex te exemplum petit,
quia isti úmbram aestate tíbi esse audivit perbonam
sub sicco lumine usque perpetuom diem.

Si.
Immo edepol vero, quom usquequaque umbra est, tamen
sol semper hic est usque a mani ad vesperum:
quasi flagitator astat usque ad ostium,
nec mi umbra hic usquamst, nisi si in puteo quaepiamst.

Tr.
Quid, Sarsinatis ecqua est, si Vmbram non habes?

Si.
Molestus ne sis. haec sunt sicut praedico.

Tr.
At tamen inspicere volt.

Si.
Inspiciat, si lubet;
si quid erit quod illi placeat, de exemplo meo
ipse aedificato.

Tr.
Eon, voco huc hominem?

Si.
I, voca.

Tr.
Alexándrum magnum atque Agathoclem aiunt maximas
duo rés gessisse: quid mihi fiet tertio,
qui solus facio facinora immortalia?
vehit hic clitellas, vehit hic autem alter senex.
novicium mihi quaestum institui non malum:
nam muliones mulos clitellarios
habent, at égo habeo homines clitellarios.
magni sunt oneris: quidquid imponas vehunt.
nunc húnc hau scio án conloquár. congrediar.
heus Théopropides.

Th.
Hém quis hic nóminat me?

Tr.
Eró servos múltis modís fidus.

Th.
Únde is?

Tr.
Quod me miseras, adfero omne impetratum.

Th.
Quid illíc, opsecro, tam diu destitisti?

Tr.
Seni non erat otium, id sum opperitus.

Th.
Antiquom optines hoc tuom, tardus ut sis.

Tr.
Heus tu, si voles verbum hóc cogitare,
simul flare sorbereque haud factu facilest.
ego híc esse et íllic simitu hau pótui.

Th.
Quid nunc?

Tr.
Vise, specta tuo usque arbitratu.

Th.
Age i, duce me.

Tr.
Num moror?

Th.
Supsequor te.

Tr.
Senex ipsus te ante ostium eccum opperitur.
sed ut maestus est se hasce aedis vendidisse.

Th.
Quid tandem?

Tr.
Orat ut suadeam Philolacheti,
ut istas remittat sibi.

Th.
Haud opinor.
sibi quisque ruri metit. si male emptae
forent, nobis istas redhibere haud liceret.
lucri quidquid est, id domum trahere oportet.
misericordias ... hominem oportet.

Tr.
Morare hercle ... facis. subsequere.

Th.
Fiat.
dó tibi ego operám.

Tr.
Senex illíc est. em, tibi ádduxi hominem.

Si.
Sálvom te advenisse peregre gaudeo, Theopropides.

Th.
Dei te ament.

Si.
Inspicere te aedis has velle aiebat mihi.

Th.
Nisi tibi est incommodum.

Si.
Immo commodum. i intro atque inspice.

Th.
At enim mulieres —

Si.
Cave tu ullam flocci faxis mulierem.
qua libet perambula aedis oppido tamquam tuas.

Th.
Tamquam?

Tr.
Ah, cave tu ílli obiectes nunc in aegritudine,
te has emisse. non tu vides hunc, voltu uti tristi est senex?

Th.
Video.

Tr.
Ergo inridere ne videare et gestire admodum;
noli facere mentionem te has emisse.

Th.
Intellego,
et bene monitum duco, atque esse existumo humani ingeni.
quid nunc?

Si.
Quin tu is intro, atque otiose perspecta ut lubet.

Th.
Bene benigneque arbitror te facere.

Si.
Factum edepol volo.
vin qui perductet?

Th.
Apage istum perductorem, non placet.
quidquid est, errabo potius quam perductet quispiam.

Tr.
Viden vestibulum ante aedis hoc et ambulacrum cuius modi?

Th.
Luculentum edepol profecto.

Tr.
Age specta postes cuius modi,
quanta firmitate facti et quanta crassitudine.

Th.
Non videor vidisse postis pulchriores.

Si.
Pol mihi
eo pretio empti fuerant olim.

Tr.
Audin ‘fuerant’ dicere?
vix videtur continere lacrimas.

Th.
Quanti hosce emeras?

Si.
Tris minas pro istis duobus praeter vecturam dedi.

Th.
Hercle qui multo improbiores sunt quam a primo credidi.

Tr.
Quapropter?

Th.
Quia edepol ambo ab infimo tarmes secat.

Tr.
Intempestivos excisos credo, id eis vitium nocet.
atque etiam nunc satis boni sunt, si sunt inducti pice;
non enim haec pultiphagus opifex opera fecit barbarus.
viden coagménta in foribus?

Th.
Video.

Tr.
Specta, quam arte dormiunt.

Th.
Dormiunt?

Tr.
Illud quidem, ut conivent, volui dicere.
satin habes?

Th.
Vt quidquid magis contemplo, tanto magis placet.

Tr.
Viden pictum, ubi ludificat cornix una volturios duos?

Th.
Non edepol video.

Tr.
At ego video. nam inter volturios duos
cornix astat, ea volturios duo vicissim vellicat.
quaeso huc ad me specta, cornicem ut conspicere possies.
iam vides?

Th.
Profecto nullam equidem illic cornicem intuor.

Tr.
At tu isto ad vos optuere, quoniam cornicem nequis
conspicari, si volturios forte possis contui.

Th.
Omnino, ut te absolvam, nullam pictam conspicio hic avem.

Tr.
Age, iam mitto, ignosco: aetate non quis optuerier.

Th.
Haec, quae possum, ea mihi profecto cuncta vehementer placent.

Si.
Latius démum est operae pretium ivisse.

Th.
Recte edepol mones.

Si.
Eho istum, puere, circumduce hasce aedis et conclavia.
nam egomet ductarem, nisi mi esset apud forum negotium.

Th.
Apage istum a me perductorem, nil moror ductarier.
quidquid est, errabo potius quam perductet quispiam.

Si.
Aedis dico.

Th.
Ergo intro eo igitur sine perductore.

Si.
Ilicet.

Th.
Ibo intro igitur.

Tr.
Mane sis videam, ne canis —

Th.
Agedum vide.

Tr.
Est! abi, canis. est! abin diérecta? abin hinc in malam crucem?
at etiam restas? est! ábi istinc.

Si.
Nil pericli est, age modo.
tam placidast, quam feta. quam vis ire intro audacter licet.
eo ego hinc ad forum. —

Th.
Fecisti commode, bene ambula.
Tranio, age, canem istam a foribus aliquis abducat face,
etsi non metuenda est.

Tr.
Quin tu illam aspice ut placide accubat;
nisi molestum vis videri te atque ignavom.

Th.
Iam ut lubet.
sequere hac me igitur. —

Tr.
Equidem haud usquam a pedibus apscedam tuis. —

ACT IV.

Phaniscvs
Serví qui, quom culpá carent, tamén malum metuont,
ei sólent esse eris utíbiles.
nam illí qui nil metuónt postquam sunt málum meriti,
stultá sibi expetunt consília:
exércent sese ad cúrsuram, fugiunt sed eí si reprehensí sunt,
fáciunt de maló peculiúm quod nequeunt dé bono.
augent ex pauxillo ... de parant.
mihi in pectore consili ... malam rem prius
quam ut meum ...
ut adhúc fuit, mihi corium ésse oportet,
sincérum atque ut votem vérberari.
si huíc imperábo, probé tectum habébo,
malúm quom impluít ceteris, ne impluát mi.
nam ut sérvi volúnt esse erum, ita solet ...
boní sunt: bonúst; improbí sunt, malús fit.
nam núnc domi nostrae tot péssimi vivont,
pecúli suí prodigí, plagigéruli.
ubi adversum ut eant vocantur ero: “non eo, molestus ne sis.
scio quo properas: gestis aliquo; iam hercle ire vis, mula, foras pastum.”
béne merens hóc preti inde ábstuli. abií foras.
sólus nunc eo advórsum ero ex plúrimis servis.
hóc die crástini quóm erus rescíverit,
máne castigábit eos búbulis exuviis.
póstremo minoris pendo tergum illorum, quam meum:
illi erunt bucaedae multo potius, quam ego sim restio.

Pinacivm
Máne tu atque adsiste ílico,
Phánisce. etiam respicis?

Phan.
Míhi molestus ne sies.

Pin.
Víde ut fastidit simia.
manésne ilico, ímpure párasite?

Phan.

...

quí parasitus sum?

Pin.
Égo enim dicam: cíbo perduci pótis es quovis.

Phan.
Mihi súm, libet esse. quid íd curas?

Pin.
Ferócem facís, quia te érus amat.

Phan.
Vah,
oculí dolent.

Pin.
Cur?

Phan.
Quia fúmus molestust.

Pin.
Tace sís, faber, qui cúdere soles plúmbeos nummos.

Phan.
Nón potes tu cógere me, ut tíbi male dicam.
novít erus me.

Pin.
Suám quidem pól culcitulam opórtet.

Phan.
Si sóbrius sis, male nón dicas.

Pin.
Tibi obtémperem, cum tu míhi nequeas?

Phan.
Át tu mecum, péssime, ito advérsus; quaeso hercle abstine
iám sermonem de istis rebus.

Pin.
Faciam, et pultabo fores.
heus, écquis hic est, máximam qui hís iniuriam
foribús defendat? écquis has aperít foris?
nemo hínc quidem foras éxit.
ut esse áddecet nequam hominés, ita sunt. sed eó magis cauto est ópus, ne huc
exeát qui male me múlcet.

Tranio
Quíd tibi visum est mercimoni?

Theopropides
... totus gaudeo.

Tr.
Num nimio emptae tibi videntur?

Th.
Numquam edepol ego me scio
vidisse usquam abiectas aedes, nisi modo hasce.

Tr.
Ecquid placent?

Th.
Ecquid placeant me rogas? immo hercle vero perplacent.

Tr.
Cuius modi gynaeceum? quid porticum?

Th.
Insanum bonam.
non equidem ullam in publico esse maiorem hac existimo.

Tr.
Quin ego ipse et Philolaches in publico omnis porticus
sumus commensi.

Th.
Quid igitur?

Tr.
Longe omnium longissima est.

Th.
Di immortales, mercimoni lepidi. si hercle nunc ferat
sex talenta magna argenti pro istis praesentaria,
numquam accipiam.

Tr.
Si hercle accipere cupies, ego numquam sinam.

Th.
Bene res nostra conlocata est istoc mercimonio.

Tr.
Me suasore atque impulsore id factum audacter dicito,
qui subegi, faenore argentum ab danista ut sumeret,
quod isti dedimus arraboni.

Th.
Servavisti omnem ratem.
nempe octoginta debentur huic minae?

Tr.

Hau nummo amplius.

Th.
Hodie accipiat.

Tr.
Ita enim vero, ne qua causa subsiet.
vel mihi denumerato, ego illi porro denumeravero.

Th.
At enim ne quid captioni mihi sit, si dederim tibi.

Tr.
Egone te ioculo modo ausim dicto aut facto fallere?

Th.
Egone aps te ausim non cavere, ne quid committam tibi?

Tr.
Quid? tibi umquam quicquam, postquam tuos sum, verborum dedi?

Th.
Ego enim cavi recte: eam mihi des gratiam atque animo meo.
sat sapio, si aps te modo uno caveo.

Tr.
Tecum sentio.

Th.
Nunc abi rús, dic me advenisse filio.

Tr.
Faciam, ut iubes.

Th.
Curriculo iube in urbem veniat iam simul tecum.

Tr.
Licet.

nunc ego me illac per posticum ad congerrones conferam.
dicam ut hic res sint quietae atque hunc ut hinc amoverim. —

Phan.
Hic quidem neque convivarum sonitus, item ut antehac fuit,
neque tibicinam cantantem neque alium quemquam audio.

Th.
Quae illaec res est? quid illisce homines quaerunt apud aedis meas?
quid volunt? quid intro spectant?

Pin.
Pergam pultare ostium.
heus, reclude, heus, Tranio, etiamne aperis?

Th.
Quae haec est fabula?

Pin.
Etiamne aperis? Callidamati nostro adversum venimus.

Th.
Heus vos, pueri, quid istic agitis? quid istas aedis frangitis?

Phan.
Heus senex, quid tu percontare ad te quod nihil attinet?

Th.
Nihil ad me attinet?

Phan.
Nisi forte factu's praefectus novos,
qui res alienas procures, quaeras videas audias.

Th.
Non sunt istae aedis, ubi statis.

Phan.

Quid ais? an iam vendidit
aedis Philolaches? aut quidem iste nos defrustratur senex.

Th.
Vera dico. sed quid vobis est negoti hic?

Phan.
Eloquar.
erus hic noster potat.

Th.
Erus hic voster potat?

Phan.
Ita loquor.

Th.
Puere, nimium delicatu's.

Phan.
Ei advorsum venimus.

Th.
Cui homini?

Phan.
Ero nostro. quaeso, quotiens dicendumst tibi?

Th.
Puere, nemo hic habitat. nam te esse arbitror puerum probum.

Phan.
Non hic Philolaches adulescens habitat hisce in aedibus?

Th.
Habitavit, verum emigravit iam diu ex hisce aedibus.

Pin.
Senex hic elleborosust certe.

Phan.
Erras pervorse, pater.
nam nisi hinc hodie emigravit aut heri, certo scio
hic habitare.

Th.
Quin sex menses iam hic nemo habitat.

Pin.
Somnias.

Th.
Egone?

Pin.
Tu.

Th.
Tu ne molestu's. sine me cum puero loqui.
nemo habitat.

Phan.
Habitat profecto, nám heri et nudius tertius,
quartus, quintus, sextus, usque postquam hinc peregre eius pater
abiit, numquam hic triduom unum desitum est potarier.

Th.
Quid ais?

Phan.
Triduom unum est haud intermissum hic esse et bibi,
scorta duci, pergraecari, fidicinas tibicinas
†ducere.

Th.
Quis istaec faciebat?

Phan.

Philolaches.

Th.
Qui Philolaches?

Phan.
Quoius patrem Theopropidem esse opinor.

Th.
Ei mihi, occidi,
si haec hic vera memorat. pergam porro percontarier.
ain tu istic potare solitum Philolachem istum, quisquis est,
cúm ero vostro?

Phan.
Hic, inquam.

Th.
Puere, praeter speciem stultus es.
vide sis, ne forte ad merendam quopiam devorteris
atque ibi ampliuscule quam sátis fuerit biberis.

Phan.
Quid est?

Th.
Ita dico, ne ad alias aedis perperam deveneris.

Phan.
Scio qua me ire oportet et quo venerim novi locum.
Philolaches hic habitat, cuius est pater Theopropides.
qui, postquam pater ad mercatum hinc abiit, hic tibicinam
liberavit.

Th.
Philolachesne ergo?

Phan.

Ita, Philematium quidem.

Th.
Quanti?

Phan.
Triginta.

Th.
Talentis?

Phan.
μὰ τὸν ... ʾαπόλλω, sed minis.

Th.
Liberavit?

Phan.
Liberavit valide, triginta minis.

Th.
Ain minis triginta amicam destinatam Philolachi?

Phan.
Aio.

Th.
Atque eam manu emisisse?

Phan.
Aio.

Th.
Et, postquam eius hinc pater
sit profectus peregre, perpotasse assiduo, ác simul
tuo cum domino?

Phan.
Aió.

Th.
Quid? is aedis emit has hinc proxumas?

Phan.
Non aio.

Th.
Quadraginta etiam dedit huic quae essent pignori?

Phan.
Neque istud aio.

Th.
Ei, perdis.

Phan.
Immo suom patrem illic perdidit.

Th.
Vera cantas.

Phan.
Vana vellem. patris amicu's videlicet.

Th.
Eu edepol patrem eius miserum praedicas.

Phan.
Nihil hoc quidem est,
triginta minae, prae quam alios dapsilis sumptus facit.

Th.
Perdidit patrem.

Phan.
Vnus istic servos est sacerrimus,
Tranio: is vel Herculi conterere quaestum possiet.
edepol ne me eiús patris mísere miseret, qui cum istaec sciet

facta ita, amburet ei misero corculum carbunculus.

Th.
Si quidem istaec vera sunt.

Phan.
Quid meream, quam ob rem mentiar?

Pin.
Heus vos, ecquis hasce aperit?

Phan.
Quid istas pultas, ubi nemo intus est?
alio credo comissatum abiisse. abeamus nunciam
atque porro quaeritemus illos. sequere hac me.

Pin.
Sequor.

Th.
Puere, iamne abis?

Phan.
Libertas paenulast tergo tuo:
mihi, nisi ut erum metuam et curem, nihil est qui tergum tegam. —

Th.
Perii hercle, quid opust verbis? ut verba audio,
non equidem in Aegyptum hinc modo vectus fui,
sed etiam in terras solas orasque ultumas
sum circumvectus, ita ubi nunc sim nescio.
verum iam scibo, nam eccum unde aedis filius
meus emit. quid agis tu?

Simo
A foro incedo domum.

Th.

Numquid processit ad forum hodie novi?

Si.
Etiam.

Th.
Quid tandem?

Si.
Vidi efferri mortuom.

Th.
Hem.

Si.
Novom unum: vidi mortuom efferri foras.
modo eum vixisse aiebant.

Th.
Vae capiti tuo.

Si.
Quid tu otiosus res novas requiritas?

Th.
Quia hodie adveni peregre.

Si.
Promisi foras,
ad cenam ne me te vocare censeas.

Th.
Haud postulo edepol.

Si.
Verum cras, nisi quis prius
vocaverit me, vel apud te cenavero.

Th.

Ne istuc quidem edepol postulo. nisi quid magis
es occupatus, operam mihi da.

Si.
Maxime.

Th.
Minas quadraginta accepisti, quod sciam,
a Philolachete?

Si.
Numquam nummum, quod sciam.

Th.
Quid, a Tránione servo?

Si.
Multo hercle id minus.

Th.
Quas arraboni tibi dedit?

Si.
Quid somnias?

Th.
Egone? at quidem tu, qui istoc te speras modo
potesse dissimulando infectum hoc reddere.

Si.
Quid autem?

Th.
Quod me apsente hic tecum filius
negoti gessit.

Si.
Mecum ut ille hic gesserit,

dum tu hinc abes, negoti? quidnam aut quo die?

Th.
Minas tibi octoginta argenti debeo.

Si.
Non mihi quidem hercle. verum, si debes, cedo.
fides servanda est, ne ire infitias postules.

Th.
Profecto non negabo debere, et dabo;
tu cave quadraginta accepisse hinc te neges.

Si.
Quaeso edepol huc me aspecta, et responde mihi.
quadraginta istas cur mihi argenti minas
filius, ut ais, debebat?

Th.
Ego dicam tibi.
talentis duobus, Tranio ut dixit mihi,
de te aedis emit.

Si.
De me ille aedis emerit?

...

Si.
Te velle uxorem aiebat tuo nato dare,
ideo aedificare hic velle aiebat in tuis.

Th.
Hic aedificare volui?

Si.
Sic dixit mihi.

Th.
Ei mihi, disperii. vocis non habeo satis.
vicine, perii, interii.

Si.
Numquid Tranio
turbavit?

Th.
Immo éxturbavit omnia.
deludificatust mé hodie indignis modis.

Si.
Quid tú ais?

Th.
Haec res sic est ut narro tibi:
deludificatust me hodie in perpetuom modum.
nunc te obsecro, ut me bene iuves operamque des.

Si.
Quid vis?

Th.
I mecum hinc, obsecro, ad te una simul.

Si.
Fiat.

Th.
Servorumque operam et lora mihi cedo.

Si.
Sume.

Th.
Eademque opera haéc tibi narravero,
quis med exemplis hodie ludificatus est.

ACT V.

Tranio
Quí homo timidus erit in rebus dubiis, nauci non erit;
atque equidem quid id esse dicam verbum nauci, nescio.
nám erus me postquam rus misit, filium ut suom arcesserem,
abii illac per angiportum ad hortum nostrum clanculum,
ostium quod in angiportu est horti, patefeci fores,
eaque eduxi omném legionem, ét maris et feminas.
postquam ex opsidione in tutum eduxi maniplares meos,
capio consilium, ut senatum congerronum convocem.
quoniam convocavi, atque illi me ex senatu segregant.
ubi ego me video venire in meo foro, quantum potest
facio idem quod plurimi alii, quibus res timida aut turbidast:
pergunt turbare usque, ut ne quid possit conquiescere.
nam scio equidem nullo pacto iam esse posse haec clam senem.
non amicus alius quisquamst ...
aut ...
pro ...
ille qui ... ero simul. ...
praeoccupabo atque anteveniam et foedus feriam. me moror.
sed quid hocést, quod foris concrepuit proxima vicinia?
erus meús hic quidem est. gustare ego eius sermonem volo.

Theopropides
Ilico intra limen isti astate, ut, cum extemplo vocem,
continuo exiliatis. manicas celeriter conectite.
ego illum ante aedis praestolabor ludificatorem meum,
cuius ego hodie ludificabor corium, si vivo, probe.

Tr.
Res palam est. nunc te videre meliust quid agas, Tranio.

Th.
Docte atque astu mihi captandumst cum illo, ubi huc advenerit.
non ego illi éxtemplo hamum ostendam, sensim mittam lineam.

dissimulabo me horum quicquam scire.

Tr.
O mortalem malum,
alter hoc Athenis nemo doctior dici potest.
verba illi non magis dare hodie quisquam quam lapidi potest.
adgrediar hominem, appellabo.

Th.
Nunc ego ille húc veniat velim.

Tr.
Siquidem pol me quaeris, adsum praesens praesenti tibi.

Th.
Euge, Tranio, quid agitur?

Tr.
Veniunt rure rustici.
Philolaches iam hic aderit.

Th.
Edepol mi opportune advenerit.
nostrum ego hunc vicinum opinor esse hominem audacem et malum.

Tr.
Quidum?

Th.
Quia negat novisse vos.

Tr.
Negat?

Th.
Nec vos sibi
nummum umquam argenti dedisse.

Tr.
Abi, lúdis me, credo haud negat.

Th.
Quid iam?

Tr.
Scio, iocaris nunc tu. nam ille quidem edepol haud negat.

Th.
Immo edepol negat profecto, neque se hasce aedis Philolachi
vendidisse.

Tr.
Eho, an negavit sibi datum argentum, obsecro?

Th.
Quin ius iurandum pollicitust dare se, si vellem, mihi,
neque se hasce aedis vendidisse neque sibi argentum datum est.

...

Th.
Dixi ego istuc idem illi.

Tr.
Quid ait?

Th.
Servos pollicitust dare
suos mihi omnes quaestioni.

Tr.
Nugas. numquam edepol dabit.

Th.
Dat profecto.

Tr.

Quin i cum illo in ius. sine inveniam.

Th.
Mane.
experiar, ut opinor. certum est.

Tr.
Immo mihi hominem cedo.
vel hominem iube aedis † mancipio poscere.

Th.
Immo hoc primum volo,
quaestioni accipere servos.

Tr.
Faciundum edepol censeo.

Th.
Quid si igitur ego accersam homines?

Tr.
Factum iam esse oportuit.
ego interim hanc aram occupabo.

Th.
Quid ita?

Tr.
Nullam rem sapis.
né enim illi huc confugere possint, quaestioni quos dabit.
hic ego tibi praesidebo, ne interbitat quaestio.

Th.
Surge.

Tr.
Minime.

Th.
Ne occupassis, obsecro, aram.

Tr.
Cur?

Th.
Scies.
quia enim id maxime volo, ut illi ístoc confugiant. sine:
tanto apud iúdicem hunc argenti condemnabo facilius.

Tr.
Quod agas id agas. quid tu porro serere vis negotium?
nescis quam metuculosa res sit ire ad iudicem?

Th.
Surgedum huc igitur. consulere quiddam est quod tecum volo.

Tr.
Sic tamen hinc consilium dedero. nimio plus sapio sedens.
tum consilia firmiora sunt de divinis locis.

Th.
Surge, ne nugare. aspicedum contra me.

Tr.
Aspexi.

Th.
Vides?

Tr.
Video. huc si quis intercedat tertius, pereat fame.

Th.
Quidum?

Tr.

Quia nil illi quaesti sit. mali hercle ambo sumus.

Th.
Perii.

Tr.
Quid tibi est?

Th.
Dedisti verba.

Tr.
Qui tandem?

Th.

Probe
med emunxti.

Tr.
Vide sis, satine recte: num mucci fluont?

Th.
Immo etiam cerebrum quoque omne é capite emunxti meo.
nam omnia male facta vestra repperi radicitus,
non radicitus quidem hercle, verum etiam exradicitus.

Tr.
Numquam edepol hodie hinc, si vivo, invitus desistam tibi.

Th.
Iam iubebo ignem et sarmenta, carnifex, circumdari.

Tr.
Ne faxis, nam elixus esse quam assus soleo suavior.

Th.
Exempla edepol faciam ego in te.

Tr.
Quia placeo, exemplum expetis?

Th.
Loquere: quoius modi reliqui, quom hinc abibam, filium?

Tr.
Cum pedibus, manibus, cum digitis, auribus, oculis, labris.

Th.
Aliud te rogo.

Tr.
Aliud ergo nunc tibi respondeo.
sed eccum tui gnati sodalem video húc incedere
Callidamatem: illo praesente mecum agito, si quid voles.

Callidamates
Vbi somno sepelivi omnem atque édormivi crapulam,
Philolaches venisse dixit mihi suom peregre huc patrem
quoque modo hominem advenientem servos ludificatus sit,
ait se metuere in conspectum sui patris procedere.
nunc ego de sodalitate solus sum orator datus,
qui a patre eius conciliarem pacem. átque eccum optime.
iubeo te salvere et salvos cum advenis, Theopropides,
peregre, gaudeo. hic apud nos hodie cenes, sic face.

Th.
Callidamates, dei te ament. de cena facio gratiam.

Call.

Quin venis?

Tr.
Promitte: ego ibo pro te, si tibi non libet.

Th.

Verbero, etiam inrides?

Tr.
Quian me pro te ire ad cenam autumo?

Th.
Non enim ibis. ego ferare faxo, ut meruisti, in crucem.

Call.

Age mitte ista ac te ad me ad cenam dic venturum.

Tr.
Quid taces?

Call.

Sed tu, istuc quid confugisti in aram?

Tr.

Inscitissimus
adveniens perterruit me. loquere nunc quid fecerim:
nunc utrisque disceptator eccum adest, age disputa.

Th.
Filium corrupisse aio te meum.

Tr.
Ausculta modo.
fateor potavisse, amicam liberasse absente te,
faenore argentum sumpsisse; id esse absumptum praedico.
numquid aliud fecit nisi quod faciunt summis gnati generibus?

Th.
Hercle mihi tecum cavendum est, nimis qui es orator catus.

Call.

Sine me dum istuc iudicare. surge, ego isti adsedero.

Th.
Maxime, accipito hanc tute ad te litem.

Tr.
Enim istic captio est.
fac ego ne metuam ... ut tu meam timeas vicem.

Th.
Iam minoris omnia alia facio, prae quam quibus modis
me ludificatust.

Tr.
Bene hercle factum, et factum gaudeo:
sapere istac aetate oportet, qui sunt capite candido.

Th.
Quid ego nunc faciam?

Tr.
Si amicus Diphilo aut Philemoni es,
dicito eis, quo pacto tuos te servos ludificaverit:
optumas frustrationes dederis in comoediis.

Call.

Tace parumper, sine vicissim me loqui, ausculta.

Th.
Licet.

Call.

Omnium primum sodalem me esse scis gnato tuo.
is adiit me, nam eum prodire pudet in conspectum tuom
propterea quia fecit quae te scire scit. nunc te obsecro,
stultitiae adulescentiaeque éius ignoscas: tuost;

scis solere illanc aetatem tali ludo ludere.
quidquid fecit, una nobiscum fécit: nos deliquimus.
faenus, sortem sumptumque omnem, quí amica empta est, omnia
nos dabimus, nos conferemus, nostro sumptu, non tuo.

Th.
Non potuit venire orator magis ad me impetrabilis
quam tu; neque iam illi sum iratus neque quicquam suscenseo.
immo me praesente amato bibito, facito quod lubet:
si hoc pudet, fecisse sumptum, supplicí habeo satis.

Call.

Dispudet.

Tr.
Post istam veniam quid me fiet nunciam?

Th.
Verberibus caedere multum pendens.

Tr.
Tamen etsi pudet?

Th.
Interimam hercle ego te, si vivo.

Call.

Fac istam cunctam gratiam:
Tranioni amitte quaeso hanc noxiam causa mea.

Th.
Aliud quidvis impetrari perferam a me facilius,
quam ut non égo istum pro suis factis pessumis pessum premam.

Call.

Mitte quaeso.

Th.
Istumne ut mittam? viden ut astat furcifer?

Call.

Tranio, quiesce, si sapis.

Th.
Tu quiesce hanc rem modo
petere: ego illum, ut sit quietus, verberibus subegero.

Tr.
Nihil opust profecto.

Call.

Áge iam, sine te hoc exorarier.

Th.
Nolo ores.

Call.

Quaeso hercle.

Th.
Nolo, inquam, ores.

Call.

Nequiquam nevis.
hanc modo noxiam unam, quaeso, missam fac causa mea.

Tr.
Quid gravaris? quasi non cras iam commeream aliam noxiam:
ibi utrúmque, et hoc et illud, poteris ulcisci probe.

Call.

Sine te exorem.

Th.
Age abi, abi impune. em huic habeto gratiam.
spectatores, fabula haec est acta, vos plausum date.

PERSA

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ACT I.

Toxilvs
Qui amáns egens ingressus est princeps in Amoris vias,
superávit aerumnis suis aerumnas Herculi.
nam cúm leone, cum éxcetra, cum cérvo, cum apro Aetólico,
cum avibús Stymphalicís, cum Antaeo déluctari mávelim,
quam cúm Amore: ita fio miser quaerendo argento mutuo,
nec quicquam nisi ‘non est’ sciunt mihi respondere quos rogo.

Sagaristio
Qui eró suo servíre volt bene sérvos servitútem,
ne illum edepol multa in pectore suo conlocare oportet,
quae eró placere cénseat praesénti atque apsentí suo.
ego neque lubenter servio neque satis sum ero ex sententia,
sed quasi lippo oculo me érus meus manum apstinere hau quit tamen,
quin mi imperet, quin me suis negotiis praefulciat.

Tox.
Quís illic est qui cóntra me astat?

Sag.
Quís hic est qui sic cóntra me astat?

Tox.
Similis est Sagaristionis.

Sag.
Toxilus híc quidem meus amicust.

Tox.
Ís est profecto.

Sag.
Eum esse opinor.

Tox.

Congrediar.

Sag.
Contra adgredibor.

Tox.
O Sagaristio, di ament te.

Sag.
O Toxilé, dabunt di quae exoptes.
út vales?

Tox.
Út queo.

Sag.
Quíd agitur?

Tox.
Vívitur.

Sag.
Sátin ergo ex sententia?

Tox.
Si eveniunt quae exopto, satis.

Sag.
Nimis stúlte amicis utere.

Tox.
Quid iam?

Sag.
Imperare oportet.

Tox.
Mihi quidem tu iám eras mortuos, quia non te visitabam.

S.
Negotium edepol —

T.
Ferreum fortasse?

S.
Plusculum annum
fui praéferratus apud molas tribunus vapularis.

Tox.
Vetus iam ístaec militiast tua.

Sag.
Satin tu úsque valuisti?

Tox.
Hau probe.

Sag.
Ergo edepol palles.

Tox.
Saucius factus sum in Veneris proelio:
sagittá Cupido cor meum transfixit.

Sag.
Iam servi hic amant?

Tox.
Quíd ego faciam? disne advorser? quasi Titani cum eis belligerem quibus sat esse non queam?

Sag.
Vide modo, ulmeae catapultae tuom ne transfigant latus.

Tox.
Básilice ágito eleútheria.

Sag.
Quíd iam?

Tox.
Quia erus peregri est.

Sag.
Ain tu,
péregri est?

Tox.
Si tu tibi bene esse
póte pati, veni: víves mecum,
básilico accipiere victu.

Sag.
Váh, iam scapulae pruriunt, quia te ístaec audivi loqui.

Tox.
Sed hoc me únum excruciat.

Sag.
Quidnam id est?

Tox.
Haéc dies summa hódie est, mea amíca sitne líbera,
an sémpiternam sérvitutem sérviat.

Sag.
Quid núnc vis ergo?

Tox.
Fácere amicum tibi me potis es sempiternum.

Sag.
Quem ad modum?

Tox.

Út mihi des nummos sescentos, quós pro capite illius pendam,
quós continuo tibi reponam in hoc tríduo, aut quadriduo.
age fí benignus, subveni.

Sag.
Qua cónfidentia rogare tu á med argentum tantum audes,
ímpudens? quin si egomet totus véneam, vix recipi potis est
quód tu me rogas; nam tú aquam a púmice nunc póstulas,
qui ípsus sitiat.

Tox.
Sicine hoc te mihi fácere?

Sag.
Quid faciam?

Tox.
Rogas?
alicúnde exora mutuom.

Sag.
Tu fác idem quod rogas me.

Tox.
Quaesivi, nusquam repperi.

Sag.
Quaeram equidem, si quis credat.

Tox.
Nempe habeo in mundo.

Sag.
Si id domi esset mihi, iam pollicerer:
hoc meumst ut faciam sedulo.

Tox.
Quidquid erit, recipe te ad me.

quaeré tamen, ego item sedulo.

Sag.
Si quid erit, te faciam ut scias.

Tox.
... obsecro te resecroque, operam da hánc mihi
fidélem.

Sag.
Ah, odio me énicas.

Tox.
Amóris vitio, non meo, nunc tibi morologus fio.

Sag.
At pol ego aps te concessero. —

Tox.
Iamne ábis? bene ambulato.
sed recipe quam primum potes, cave fúas mi in quaestione.
usque ero domi, dum excoxero lenoni malam rem magnam. —

Satvrio
Veterem atque antiquom quaestum maiorum meum
servo atque obtineo et magna cum cura colo.
nam numquam quisquam meorum maiorum fuit,
quin parasitando paverint ventres suos:
patér, avos, proavos, abavos, atavos, tritavos
quasi mures semper edere alienum cibum,
neque edacitate eos quisquam poterat vincere;
atque eis cognómentum erat durís Capitonibus.
unde égo hunc quaestum optineo et maiorum locum.
neque quadrupulari me volo, neque enim decet
sine meo periclo ire aliena ereptum bona,
neque illí qui faciunt mihi placent. planen loquor?
nam publicae rei causa quicumque id facit
magis quám sui quaesti, animus induci potest,

eum esse civem ét fidelem ét bonum.
sed ...
si legirupam qui damnet, det in publicum
dimidium; atque etiam in ea lege adscribier:
ubi quadrupulator quempiam iniexit manum,
tantidem ille illi rursus iniciat manum,
ut aequa parti prodeant ad tris viros:
si id fiat, ne isti faxim nusquam appareant,
qui hic albo rete áliena oppugnant bona.
sed sumne ego stultus, qui rem curo publicam,
ubi sint magistratus, quos curare oporteat?
nunc huc intro ibo, visam hesternas reliquias,
quieríntne recte necne, num afuerit febris,
opertaen fuerint, ne quis obreptaverit.
sed aperiuntur aedes, remorandust gradus.

Toxilvs
Omnem rem inveni, ut sua sibi pecunia
hodie illam faciat leno libertam suam.
sed eccúm parasitum, quoius mi auxilio est opus.
simulabo quasi non videam: ita alliciam virum.
curate istic vos atque adproperate ocius,
ne mihi morae sit quicquam, ubi ego intro advenero.
commisce mulsum, struthea † coluthequam appara,
bene ut in scutris concaleat, et calamum inice.
iam pól ille hic aderit, credo, congerro meus.

Sat.
Me dicit, euge.

Tox.
Lautum credo e balineis
iam hic adfuturum.

Sat.
Vt ordine omnem rem tenet.

Tox.
Collyrae facite ut madeant et colyphia,
ne mihi incócta detis.

Sat.
Rem loquitur meram.
nihili sunt crudae, nisi quas madidas gluttias;
tum nisi cremore crassost ius collyricum,
nihilist, macrum illud epicrocum pellucidum:
quasi †iuream esse ius decet collyricum.
nolo in vesicam quod eat, in ventrem volo.

Tox.
Prope me hic nescio quis loquitur.

Sat.
O mi Iuppiter
terrestris, te coepulonus compellat tuos.

Tox.
O Saturio, opportune advenisti mihi.

Sat.
Mendacium edepol dicis, atque haud te decet:
nam essurio venio, non advenio saturio.

Tox.
At edes, nam iam intus ventris fumant focula.
calefieri iussi reliquias.

Sat.
Pernam quidem
ius est adponi frigidam postridie.

Tox.
Ita fieri iussi.

Sat.

Ecquid hallecis?

Tox.
Vah, rogas?

Sat.
Sapis múltum ad genium.

Tox.
Sed tu, ecquid meministi, here
qua de re ego tecum mentionem feceram?

Sat.
Memini: ut murena et conger ne calefierent;
nam nimio melius oppectuntur frigida.
sed quid cessamus proelium committere?
dum mane est, omnis esse mortalis decet.

Tox.
Nimis paéne manest.

Sat.
Mane quod tu occeperis
negotium agere, id totum procedit diem.

Tox.
Quaeso animum advorte hoc. iám heri narravi tibi
tecumque oravi, ut nummos sescentos mihi
dares utendos mutuos.

Sat.
Memini et scio,
et te me orare et mihi non esse quod darem.
nihili parasitus est, cui árgentum domi est:
lubido extemplo coeperest convivium,
tuburcinari de suo, si quid domi est.
cynicum esse egentem oportet parasitum probe:
ampullam, strigilem, scaphium, soccos, pallium,

marsuppium habeat, inibi paullum praesidi,
qui familiarem suam vitam oblectet modo.

Tox.
Iam nolo argentum: filiam utendam tuam
mihi da.

Sat.
Numquam edepol cuiquam etiam utendam dedi.

Tox.
Non ad istuc quod tu insimulas.

Sat.
Quid eam vis?

Tox.
Scies.
quia forma lepida et liberali est.

Sat.
Res itast.

Tox.
Hic leno neque te novit neque gnatam tuam.

Sat.
Me ut quisquam norit, nisi ille qui praebet cibum?

Tox.
Ita est. hoc tu mihi reperire argentum potes.

Sat.
Cupio hercle.

Tox.
Tum tu me sine illam vendere.

Sat.

Tun illam vendas?

Tox.
Immo alium adlegavero
qui vendat, qui esse se peregrinum praedicet.
sicut istic leno non sex menses Megaribus
huc est cum commigravit.

Sat.
Pereunt reliquiae.
posterius istuc tamen potest.

Tox.
Scin quam potest?
numquam hercle hodie hic prius edes, ne frustra sis,
quam te hoc facturum quod rogo adfirmas mihi;
atqué nisi gnatam tecum huc iam quantum potest
adducis, exigam hercle ego te ex hac decuria.
quid nunc? quid est? quin dicis quid facturus sis?

Sat.
Quaeso hercle me quoque etiam vende, si lubet,
dum saturum vendas.

Tox.
Hoc, si facturu's, face.

Sat.
Faciam equidem quae vis.

Tox.
Bene facis. propera, abi domum;
praemonstra docte, praecipe astu filiae,
quid fabuletur: ubi se natam praedicet,
qui sibi parentes fuerint, unde surpta sit.
sed longe ab Athenis esse se gnatam autumet;
et ut adfleat, cum ea memoret.

Sat.
Etiam tu taces?
ter tanto peior ipsa est quam illam tu esse vis.

Tox.
Lepide hercle dicis. sed scin quid facias? cape
tunicam atque zonam, et chlamydem adferto et causeam,
quam ille habeat qui hanc lenoni huic vendat.

Sat.
Eu, probe.

Tox.
Quasi sit peregrinus.

Sat.
Laudo.

Tox.
Et tu gnatam tuam
ornatam adduce lepide in peregrinum modum.

Sat.
πόθεν ornamenta?

Tox.
Abs chorago sumito;
dare debet: praebenda aediles locaverunt.

Sat.
Iam faxo hic aderunt. sed ego nihil horunc scio.

Tox.
Nihil hercle vero. nam ubi ego argentum accepero,
continuo tu illam a lenone adserito manu.

Sat.
Sibi habeat, si non extemplo ab eo abduxero. —

Tox.
Abi et istuc cura. interibi egó puerum volo
mittere ad amicam meam, út habeat animum bonum,
me esse effecturum hoc hodie. nimis longum loquor. —

ACT II.

Sophoclidisca
Satis fúit índoctae, ímmemori, insípienti dicére totiens.
nimis tándem me quidem pró barda et pro rústica reor habitam ésse aps te.
quamquam égo vinum bibo, at mándata non cónsuevi simul bíbere una.
me quídem iam satis tibi spéctatam censébam esse et meos móres.
nam equidém te iam sectór quintum hunc annúm, quom interea, crédo,
ovis si ín ludum iret, pótuisset iam fíeri ut probe litterás sciret,
quom interím tu meum ingeniúm fans atque infans nondum etiam edídicisti.
potin út taceas? potin né moneas?
memini ét scio et calleo et cómmemini.
amas pól misera: id tuos scátit animus.
ego istúc placidum tibi ut sít faciam.

Lemniselenis
Miser ést qui amat. —

Soph.
Cérto is quidém nihilist,
qui níl amat: quíd ei homini ópus vita est?
iré decet me, út erae opsequéns fiam, libéra ea opera ócius ut sit.
convéniam hunc Toxilum: eius auris, quae mandata sunt, onerabo.

Toxilvs
Sátin haec tibi sunt plána et certa? sátin haec meministi ét tenes?

Paegnivm
Melius quam tu qui docuisti.

Tox.
Ain véro, verbereum caput?

P.
Aio enim véro.

T.
Quid ergo dixi?

P.
Ego recte apud illam dixero.

Tox.
Non edepol scis.

Paeg.
Da hercle pignus, ni omnia memini et scio,
et quidem sí scis tute, quot hodie habeas digitos in manu.

Tox.
Egon dem pignus tecum?

Paeg.
Audacter, si lubido est perdere.

T.
Bona pax sit potius.

P.
Tum tu igitur sine me ire.

T.
Et iubeo et sino;
sed ita volo te ire, ut domí sis, cum ego te esse illi censeam.

Paeg.
Faciam.

Tox.
Quo ergo is nunc?

Paeg.

Domum: uti domi sim, quom illi censeas.

Tox.
Scelus tu pueri es, atque ob istánc rem ego aliqui te peculiabo.

Paeg.
Scio fide hercle erili ut soleat impudicitia opprobrari
nec subigi queantur umquam, ut pro éa fide habeant iudicem.

T.
Abi modo.

P.
Ego laudabis faxo.

T.
Sed has tabellas, Paegnium,
ipsi Lemniseleni fac des et quae iussi nuntiato.

Soph.
Cesso ire ego quo missa sum?

P.
Eo ego.

T.
I sane. ego domum ibo. face rem hanc cum cura geras.
vola curriculo. —

Paeg.
Istuc marinus passer per circum solet.
illic hinc abiit intro huc. sed quis haec ést quae med advorsum
incedit?

S.
Paegnium hic quidem est.

P.

Sophoclidisca haéc peculiarest eius
quo ego sum missus.

S.
Nullus esse hodie hóc puero peior perhibetur.

Paeg.
Compellabo.

Soph.
Commorandust.

Paeg.
Apud hanc obieci ...

Soph.
Paegnium, deliciae pueri, salve. quid agis? ut vales?

Paeg.
Sophoclidisca, di me amabunt.

Soph.
Quid me?

Paeg.
Vtrum hercle di volent;
sed si ut digna es faciant, odio hercle habeant et faciant male.

Soph.
Mitte male loqui.

Paeg.
Quom ut digna es dico, bene, non male loquor.

Soph.
Quid agis?

Paeg.
Feminam scelestam te astans contra contuor.

Soph.
Certe equidem puerum peiorem quam te novi neminem.

Paeg.
Quid male facio aut quoi male dico?

Soph.
Quoi pol cumque occasio est.

Paeg.
Nemo homo umquam ita arbitratust.

Soph.
At pol multi esse ita sciunt.

Paeg.
Heia.

Soph.
Beia.

Paeg.
Tuo ex ingenio mores alienos probas.

Soph.
Fateor ego profecto me esse ut decet lenonis familiae.

Paeg.
Satis iam dictum habeo.

Soph.
Sed quid tu? confitere ut te autumo?

Paeg.
Fatear, si ita sim.

Soph.
Iam ábi, vicisti.

Paeg.
Abi núnciam ergo.

Soph.
Hoc mi expedi,
quó agis?

Paeg.
Quo tu?

Soph.
Dic tu.

Paeg.
Dic tu.

Soph.
Prior rogavi.

Paeg.
At post scies.

Soph.
Eo ego hinc haud longe.

Paeg.
Et quidem ego haud longe hinc eo.

Soph.
Quo ergo is, scelus?

Paeg.
Nisi scieró prius ex te, tu ex me numquam hoc quod rogitas scies.

Soph.
Numquam ecastor hodie scibis prius quam ex te audivero.

Paeg.
Itane est?

Soph.
Itane est.

Paeg.
Mala es.

Soph.
Scelestu's.

Paeg.
Decet me.

Soph.
Me quidem addecet.

Paeg.
Quid ais? certumnest celare, quó iter facias, pessuma?

Soph.
Offirmastin occultare quo te immittas, pessume?

Paeg.
Par pari respondes dicto. abi iam, quando ita certa res.
nihili facio scire. valeas.

Soph.
Asta.

Paeg.
At propero.

Soph.
Et pol ego item.

Paeg.
Ecquid habes?

Soph.
Ecquid tú?

Paeg.
Nil equidem.

Soph.
Cedo manum ergo.

Paeg.
Estne haec manus?

So.
Vbi illa altera ést furtifica laeva?

Pa.
Domi eccam. huc nullam attuli.

Soph.
Habes nescio quid.

Paeg.
Ne me attrecta, subigitatrix.

Soph.
Sin te amo?

Paeg.
Male operam locas.

Soph.
Qui?

Paeg.
Quia enim nihil amas, quom ingratum amas.

Soph.
Temperi hanc vigilare oportet formulam atque aetatulam,
né, ubi versicapillus fias, foede semper servias.
tu quidem haud étiam es octoginta pondo.

Paeg.

At confidentia
illa militia militatur multo magis quam pondere.
atque ego hanc nunc operam perdo.

Soph.
Quid iam?

Paeg.
Quia peritae praedico.
sed ego cesso.

Soph.
Mane.

Paeg.
Molesta es.

Soph.
Ergo ero quoque, nisi scio,
quó agas te.

Paeg.
Ad vos.

Soph.
Et pol ego ad vos.

Paeg.
Quid eo?

Soph.
Quid id ad te attinet?

Pa.
Enim non ibis nunc, vicissim nisi scio.

So.
Odiosu's.

Pa.
Lubet.
numquam hercle istuc exterebrabis, tu ut sis peior quam ego siem.

Soph.
Malitia certare tecum miseria est.

Paeg.
Mers tu mala es.

So.
Quid est quod metuas?

Pa.
Idem istuc quod tu.

So.
Dic ergo ...
ne hoc cuiquam homini edicerem, omnes muti ut loquerentur prius.

Pa.
Edictum est magno opere mihi, ne quoiquam hoc homini crederem,
omnes muti ut eloquerentur prius hoc quám ego.

So.
At tu hoc face:
fide data credamus.

Paeg.
Novi: omnes sunt lenae levifidae,
neque tippulae levius pondust, quam fides lenonia.

So.
Dic amabo.

Pa.
Dic amabo.

So.
Nolo ames.

Pa.
Facile impetras.

Soph.
Tecum habeto.

Paeg.
Et tu hoc taceto.

Soph.
Tacitum erit.

Paeg.
Celabitur.

Soph.
Toxilo has fero tabellas tuo ero.

Paeg.
Abi, eccillum domi.
at ego hánc ad Lemniselenem tuam eram opsignatam abietem.

Soph.
Quid istic scriptum?

Paeg.
Iuxta tecum, si tu nescis, nescio;
nisi fortasse blanda verba.

Soph.
Ábeo.

Paeg.
Et ego ábiero. —

Soph.

Ambula. —

Sagaristio
Ióvi opulento, íncluto,
Ope gnáto, suprémo, validó, viripoténti,
opés, spes bonás, copiás commodánti
... lubens vítulorque merito,
quiá meo amico amíciter hanc cómmoditatis cópiam
danúnt, argenti mutui ut éi egenti opem adferam;
quód ego non magis sómniabam neque opinabar neque censebam,
eam fore mihi occasionem, ea nunc quasi decidit de caelo;
nam erus meus me Eretriam misit, domitos boves ut sibi mercarer,
dedit argentum, nam ibi mercatum dixit esse die septumi:
stultus, qui hoc mihi daret argentum, cuius ingenium noverat.
nam hoc argentum álibi abutar: boves, quos emerem, non erant;
nunc et amico prosperabo et genio meo multá bona faciam,
diu quo bene erit, die úno absolvam: tux tax tergo erit meo. non curo.
nunc amico homini boves dómitos mea ex crumina largiar.
nam id demum lepidumst, triparcos homines, vetulos, avidos, aridos
béne admordere, qui salinum servo obsignant cum sale.
virtús, ubi occásio admonet, dispicere. quid faciet mihi?
verberibus caedi iusserit, compédes impingi? vapulet,
ne sibi me credat supplicem fore: vae illi, nil iam mihi novi
offérre potest, quin sím peritus. sed ... Toxili
púerum Paegnium eccum.

Paegnivm
Pensúm meum, quod datumst, cónfeci. nunc dómum propero.

Sag.
Mane, etsí properas.
Paégnium, ausculta.

Pa.
Emere oportet, quem tibi oboediré velis.

S.

Asta.
Paeg.
Exhibeas molestiam, ut opínor, si quid debeam,
qui nunc sic tamen es molestus.

Sag.
Scelerate, etiam respicis?

Paeg.
Scio ego quid sim aetatis, eo istuc maledictum impune auferes.

Sag.
Vbi Tóxilus est tuus érus?

Paeg.
Vbi illí libet, néque te consulit.

Sag.

Etiam
dicís ubi sit, venéfice?

Paeg.
Néscio, inquam, ulmítriba tu.

Sag.
Male dícis maiorí.

Paeg.
Prior proméritus perpetiáre.
servam operam, linguam liberam erus iussit med habere.

Sag.
Dicisne mi, ubi sit Toxilus?

Paeg.
Dico ut perpetuo pereas.

Sag.

Caedere hodie tu restibus.

Paeg.
Tua quidem, cucule, causa!
non hercle, si os perciderim tibi, metuam, morticine.

Sag.
Video ego te: iam incubitatus es.

Paeg.
Ita sum. quid id ad te attinet?
at non sum, ita ut tu, gratiis.

Sag.
Confidens.

Paeg.
Sum hercle vero.
nam ego me confido liberum fore, tu te numquam speras.

Sag.
Potin ut molestus ne sies?

Paeg.
Quod dicis facere non quis.

Sa.
Abi in malam rem.

Pa.
At tu domum: nam ibi tibi parata praestost.

Sag.
Vadatur hic me.

Paeg.
Vtinam vades desint, in carcere ut sis.

Sag.

Quid hoc?

Paeg.
Quid est?

Sag.
Etiam, scelus, male loquere?

Paeg.
Tandem ut liceat,
quom servos sis, servom tibi male dicere.

Sag.
Itane? specta
quid dedero.

Paeg.
Nil, nam nil habes.

Sag.
Di deaeque me omnes perdant —

Paeg.
Amicus sum, eveniant volo tibi quae optas.

Sag.
Atque id fiat,
nisi te hodie, si prehendero, defigam in terram colaphis.

Paeg.
Tun me defigas? te cruci ipsum adfigent propediem alii.

Sag.
Qui te di deaeque — scis quid hinc porro dicturus fuerim,
ni linguae moderari queam. potin abeas?

Paeg.
Abigis facile.

nam umbra mea iam intus vapulat. —

Sag.
Vt istúnc di deaeque perdant.
tamquam proserpens bestiast bilinguis et scelestus.
hercle illum abiisse gaudeo. foris aperit, eccere autem
quem convenire maxime cupiebam egreditur intus.

Toxilvs
Paratum iam esse dicito, unde argentum sit futurum,
iubeto habere animum bonum, dic me illam amare multum;
ubi se adiuvat, ibi me adiuvat. quae dixi ut nuntiares,
satin ea tenes?

Sophoclidisca
Magis cálleo quam aprugnum callum callet. —

Tox.
Propera, abi domum. ...

Sag.
Nunc ego huic graphice facetus fiam.
subnixis alis me inferam atque amicibor gloriose.

Tox.
Sed quís hic ansatus ambulat?

Sag.
Magnifice conscreabor.

Tox.
Sagaristio hic quidemst. quíd agitur, Sagaristio? ut valetur?
ecquid, quod mandavi tibi, †estne in te speculae?

Sag.
Adito.
videbitur. factum volo. venito. promoneto.

Tox.
Quid hoc híc in collo tibi tumet?

Sag.
Vomicast, pressare parce;
nam ubi quí mala tangit manu, dolores cooriuntur.

Tox.
Quando istaec innatast tibi?

Sag.
Hodie.

Tox.
Secari iubeas.

Sag.
Metuo, ne immaturam secem, ne exhibeat plus negoti.

Tox.
Inspicere morbum tuom lubet.

Sag.
Ah ah, abi atque cave sis
a cornu.

Tox.
Quid iam?

Sag.
Quia boves bini hic sunt in crumina.

Tox.
Emitte sodes, ne enices fame; sine ire pastum.

Sag.
Enim métuo, ut possim reicere in bubile, ne vagentur.

Tox.

Ego reiciam. habe animum bonum.

Sag.
Credetur, commodabo.
sequere hac sis. argentum hic inest, quod mecum dudum orasti.

Tox.
Quid tú ais?

Sag.
Dominus me bovis mercatum Eretriam misit.
nunc mi Eretria erit haec tua domus.

Tox.
Nimis tú facete loquere.
atque ego omne argentúm tibi hoc actutum incolume redigam;
nam iam omnes sycophantias instruxi et comparavi,
quo pacto ab lenone auferam hoc argentum,

Sag.
Tanto melior.

Tox.
Et mulier ut sit libera atque ipse ultro det argentum.
sed sequere me: ad eam rem usus est tua mihi opera. —

Sa.
Vtere ut vis. —

ACT III.

Satvrio
Quae res bene vortat mi et tibi et ventri meo
perennitatique adeo huic, perpetuo cibus
ut mihi supersit, suppetat, superstitet:
sequere hac, mea gnata, me, cum dis volentibus.
quoi rei opera detur scis, tenes, intellegis;
communicavi tecum consilia omnia.
ea causa ad hoc exemplum te exornavi ego.
venibis tu hodie, virgo.

Virgo
Amabo, mi pater,
quamquam libenter escis alienis studes,
tuin véntris causa filiam vendas tuam?

Sat.
Mirum quin regis Phílippi causa aut Attali
te potius vendam quam mea, quae sis mea.

Vir.
Vtrum tú pro ancilla mé habes an pro filia?

Sat.
Vtrum hercle magis in ventris rem videbitur.
meum, opino, imperiumst in te, non in me tibi.

Vir.
Tua istaéc potestas est, pater. verum tamen,
quamquam res nostrae sunt, pater, pauperculae,
modice et modeste meliust vitam vivere;
nam ad paupertatem si admigrant infamiae,
gravior paupertas fit, fides sublestior.

Sat.
Enim véro odiosa es.

Vir.
Non sum, neque me esse arbitror,
quom parva natu recte praecipio patri.
nam inimici famam non ita ut natast ferunt.

Sat.
Ferant eantque maximam malam crucem;
neque ego ínimicitias omnes pluris existimo,
quam mensa inanis nunc si apponatur mihi.

Vir.
Patér, hominum immortalis est infamia;
etiam tum vivit, cum esse credas mortuam.

Sat.
Quid? metuis, ne te vendam?

Vir.
Non metuo, pater.
verum insimulari nolo.

Sat.
At nequiquam nevis.
meo modo istuc potius fiet quam tuo
fiat. quae hae res sunt?

Vir.
Cogita hoc verbum, pater:
erus sí minatus est malum servo suo,
tametsi íd futurum non est, ubi captumst flagrum,
dum tunicas ponit, quanta adficitur miseria!
ego nunc quod non futurumst formido tamen.

Sat.
Virgo atque mulier nulla erit quin sit mala,
quae praeter sapiet quam placet parentibus.

Vir.

Virgo atque mulier nulla erit quin sit mala,
quae reticet, si quid fieri pervorse videt.

Sat.
Malo cavere meliust te.

Vir.
At si non licet
cavere, quid agam? nám ego tibi cautum volo.

Sa.
Malusne égo sum?

Vi.

Non es, neque me dignumst dicere,
verum ei rei operam do, ne alii dicant, quibus licet.

Sat.
Dicat quod quisque volt; ego de hac sententia
non demovebor.

Vir.
At, meo sí liceat modo,
sapienter potius facias quam stulte.

Sat.
Lubet.

Vir.
Lubere per me tibi licere intellego;
verum lubere hau lubeat, sí liceat mihi.

Sat.
Futura es dicto oboediens an non patri?

Vir.
Futura.

Sat.
Scis iam tibi quae praecepi?

Vir.
Omnia.

Sat.
Et ut surrupta fueris?

Vir.
Docte calleo.

Sat.
Et qui parentes fuerint?

Vir.
Habeo in memoria.
necessitate me mala ut fiam facis.
verum videto, me ubi voles nuptum dare,
ne haec fama faciat repudiosas nuptias.

Sat.
Tace, stúlta. non tu nunc hominum mores vides?
quoivis modi hic cum mala fama facile nubitur:
dum dos sit, nullum vitium vitio vortitur.

Vir.
Ergo istuc facito ut veniat in mentem tibi,
me esse indotatam.

Sat.
Cave sis tu istuc dixeris.
pol deum virtute dicam et maiorum meum,
ne te indotatam dicas, quoi dos sit domi:
librorum eccillum hábeo plenum soracum.
si hoc adcurassis lepide, cui rei operam damus,
dabuntur dotis tibi inde sescenti logi,
atque Attici omnes; nullum Siculum acceperis:

cum hac dote poteris vel mendico nubere.

Vir.
Quin tu me ducis, si quo ducturu's, pater?
vel tu me vende vel face quid tibi lubet.

Sat.
Bonum aequomque oras. sequere hac. —

Vir.
Dicto sum audiens. —

Dordalvs
Quidnam esse acturum hunc dicam vicinum meum,
qui mihi iuratust sese hodie argentum dare?
quod si non dederit atque hic dies praeterierit,
ego argentum, ille iusiurandum amiserit.
sed ibi concrepuit foris. quisnam egreditur foras?

Toxilvs
Curate isti intus, iam égo domum me recipiam.

Dor.
Oh,
Toxile, quid agitur?

Tox.
Oh, lutum lenonium,
commixtum caeno sterculinum publicum,
impure, inhoneste, iniure, inlex, labes popli,
pecuniae accípiter avide atque invide,
procax, rapax, trahax — trecentis versibus
tuas ímpuritias traloqui nemo potest —
accipin argentum? accipe sis argentum, impudens,
tené sis argentum, etiam tu argentum tenes?
possum te facere ut argentum accipias, lutum?
non mihi censebas copiam argenti fore,
qui nisi iurato mihi nil ausu's credere?

Dor.
Sine respirare me, ut tibi respondeam.
vir summe populi, stabulum servitutium,
scortorum liberator, suduculum flagri,
compedium tritor, pistrinorum civitas,
perenniserve, lurco, edax, furax, fugax,
cedo sis mi argentum, da mihi argentum, impudens,
possum a te exigere argentum? argentum, inquam, cedo,
quin tu mi argentum reddis? nilne te pudet?
leno te argentum poscit, solida servitus,
pro liberanda amica, ut omnes audiant.

Tox.
Tace, obsecro hercle. ne tua vox valide valet.

Dor.
Referundae ego habeo linguam natam gratiae.
eodém mihi pretio sal praehibetur quo tibi.
nisi me haec defendet, numquam delinget salem.

Tox.
Iam omitte iratus esse. id tibi suscensui,
quia te negabas credere argentum mihi.

Dor.
Mirum quin tibi ego crederém, ut idem mihi
faceres quod partim faciunt argentarii:
ubi quid credideris, citius extemplo a foro
fugiunt quam ex porta ludis cum emissust lepus.

Tox.
Cape hoc sis.

Dor.
Quin das?

Tox.
Nummi sescenti hic erunt,

probi, numerati. fac sit mulier libera,
atque huc continuo adduce.

Dor.
Iam faxo hic erit.
non hercle, quoi nunc hoc dem spectandum, scio.

Tox.
Fortasse metuis in manum concredere?

Dor.
Mirum quin ... citius iam a foro argentarii
abeunt, quam in cursu rotula circumvortitur.

Tox.
Abi istác travorsis angiportis ad forum;
eadem ístaec facito mulier ad me transeat
per hortum.

Dor.
Iam hic faxo aderit.

Tox.
At ne propalam.

Dor.
Sapienter sane.

Tox.
Supplicatum cras eat.

Dor.
Ita hercle vero. —

Tox.
Dum stas, reditum oportuit.

ACT IV.

si quam rem accures sobrie aut frugaliter,
solet illa recte sub manus succedere.
atque edepol ferme ut quisque rem accurat suam,
sic ei procedit postprincipio, denique
si malus aut nequamst, male res vortunt quas agit,
sin autem frugist, eveniunt frugaliter.
hanc ego rem exorsus sum facete et callide,
igitur proventuram bene confido mihi.
nunc ego lenonem ita hodie intricatum dabo,
ut ipsus sese, qua se expediat, nesciat.
Sagaristio, heus, exi atque educe virginem
et istás tabellas, quas consignavi tibi,
quas tu attulisti mi ab ero meo usque e Persia.

Sagaristio
Numquid moror?

Tox.
Euge, euge, exornatu's basilice;
tiara ornatum lepida condecorat schema.
tum hanc hospitam autem crepidula ut graphice decet.
sed satin estis meditati?

Sag.
Tragici et comici
numquam aeque sunt meditati.

Tox.
Lepide hercle adiuvas.
age, illúc abscede procul e conspectu et tace.
ubi cum lenone me videbis conloqui
id erit adeundi tempus. nunc agite ite vos.

Dordalvs
Quoí homini di própitii sunt, áliquid obiciúnt lucri;

nam égo hodie compendi feci binos panes in dies.
íta ancillá mea quae fuit hodie, sua nunc est: argento vicit;
iám hodie alienum cenabit, nil gustabit de meo.
sumne probus, sum lepidus civis, qui Atticam hodie civitatem
maximam maiorem feci atque auxi civi femina?
sed ut ego hodie fui benignus, ut ego multis credidi,
nec satis a quiquam homine accepi: ita prosum credebam omnibus;
nec metuo, quibus credidi hodie, ne quis mi in iure abiurassit:
bonus volo iam ex hoc die esse — quod neque fiet neque fuit.

Tox.
Hunc hominem ego hodie in trasennam doctis deducam dolis,
itaque huic insidiae paratae sunt probe. adgrediar virum.
quid agis?

Dor.
Credo.

Tox.
Únde agis te, Dordale?

Dor.
Credo tibi.
di dent, quae velis.

Tox.
Eho, an iám manu emisisti mulierem?

D.
Crédo edepol, credo, inquam, tibi.

T.
Iam liberta auctu's?

D.
Enicas.
quin tíbi me dico crédere.

T.
Dic bona fíde: iam liberast?

D.
Ólim.
i, i ád forum ad praetorem, éxquire, siquidém mihi credere nón vis.
líbera, inquam, est: ecquid audis?

Tox.
At tibi di bene faciant omnes.
númquam enim pósthac tibi nec tuorum quoiquam quod nolis volam.

Dor.
Abi, né iura, satis crédo.

Tox.
Vbi núnc tua libertást?

Dor.
Apud te.

Tox.
Ain, apud mést?

Dor.
Aio, inquam, apud te ést, inquam.

Tox.
Ita mé di ament, ut ob ístam rem tibi múlta bona instant á me.
nam est rés quaedam, quam occúltabam tibi dícere: nunc eam nárrabo,
unde tú pergrande lucrúm facias: faciam, út mei memineris, dúm vitam
vivás.

Dor.
Bene dictis tuís bene facta aurés meae auxilium expóscunt.

Tox.
Tuom prómeritumst, merito út faciam. et ut mé scias esse ita fácturum,
tabellás tene has, péllege.

Dor.
Istaé quid ad mé?

Tox.
Immo ád te attinént et tuá refert.
nam ex Pérsia sunt haec állatae mihi a méo ero.

D.
Quando?

T.
Haud dúdum.

Dor.
Quid istaé narrant?

Tox.
Percóntare ex ipsís. ipsae tibi nárrabunt.

Dor.
Cedo sáne mihi.

Tox.
At clare récitato.

Dor.
Tace, dúm pellego.

Tox.
Hau verbúm faciam

Dor.
Salutem dicit Toxilo Timarchides

et familiae omni. si valetis, gaudeo.
ego valeo recte et rem gero et facio lucrum,
neque istóc redire his octo possum mensibus,
itaque hic est quod me detinet negotium.
Chrysopolim Persae cepere urbem in Arabia,
plenam bonarum rerum atque antiquom oppidum:
ea comportatur praeda, ut fiat auctio
publicitus; ea res me domo expertem facit.
operam atque hospitium ego isti praehiberi volo,
qui tibi tabellas adfert. cura quae is volet,
nam is mihi honores suae domi habuit maxumos.

Dor.
Quíd id ad me aut ad meam rem refert, Persae quid rerum gerant
aut quid erus tuos?

Tox.
Tace, stultiloque; nescis quid te instet boni
neque quam tibi Fortuna faculam lucrifera adlucere volt.

Dor.
Quae istaec lucrifera est Fortuna?

Tox.
Istas, quae norunt, roga.
ego tantumdem scio quantum tu, nisi quod pellegi prior.
sed, ut occepisti, ex tabellis nosce rem.

Dor.
Bene me mones.
fac silentium.

Tox.
Nunc ad illud venies quod refert tua.

Dor.
Iste quí tabellas adfert adduxit simul
forma expetenda liberalem virginem,

furtivam, abductam ex Arabia penitissuma;
eam te volo accurare ut istic veneat.
ac suo periclo is emat qui eam mercabitur:
mancipio neque promittet neque quisquam dabit.
probum et numeratum argentum ut accipiat face.
haec cura, et hospes cura ut curetur. vale.

Tox.
Quíd igitur? postquam recitasti quod erat cerae creditum,
iam mihi credis?

Dor.
Vbi nunc illest hospes, qui hasce huc attulit?

Tox.
Iam hic credo aderit: arcessivit illam a navi.

Dor.
Nil mi opust
litibus neque tricis. quam ob rem ego argentum enumerem foras?
nisi mancipio accipio, quid eo mi opus est mercimonio?

Tox.
Tacen an non taces? numquam ego te tam esse matulam credidi.
quid metuis?

Dor.
Metuo hercle vero. sensi ego iam compluriens,
neque mi haud imperito eveniet, tali ut in luto haeream.

Tox.
Nil pericli mihi videtur.

Dor.
Scio istuc, sed metuo mihi.

Tox.
Mea quidem istuc nil refert: tua ego hoc facio gratia,

ut tibi recte conciliandi primo facerem copiam.

Dor.
Gratiam habeo. sed te de aliis, quam alios de te suaviust
fieri doctos.

Tox.
Ne quis vero ex Arabia penitissuma
persequatur. etiam tu illam destinas?

Dor.
Videam modo
mercimonium.

Tox.
Aequa dicis. séd optume eccum ipse advenit
hospes ille, qui has tabellas attulit.

Dor.
Hicinest?

Tox.
Hic est.

Dor.
Haecine illást furtiva virgo?

Tox.
Iuxta tecum aeque scio,
nisi quia specie quidem edepol liberalist, quisquis est.

Dor.
Sat edepol concinnast facie.

Tox.
Vt contemptim carnufex.
taciti contemplemur formam.

Dor.
Laudo consilium tuom.

Sagaristio
Satin Athenae tibi sunt visae fortunatae atque opiparae?

Virgo
Vrbis speciem vidi, hominum móres perspexi parum.

Tox.
Numquid in principió cessavit verbum docte dicere?

Dor.
Hau potui etiam in primo verbo perspiceré sapientiam.

Sag.
Quid id quod vidisti? ut munitum muro tibi visum oppidumst?

Vir.
Si incolae bene sunt morati, pulchre munitum arbitror.
perfidia et pecúlatus ex urbe et avaritia si exulant,
quarta invidia, quinta ambitio, sexta óbtrectatio,
septimum periurium,

Tox.
Euge.

Vir.
Octava indiligentia,
nona iniuria, decimum, quod pessimum adgressust, scelus:
haec unde aberunt, ea urbs moenita muro sat erit simplici;
ubi ea aderúnt, centumplex murus rebus servandis parumst.

Tox.
Quid ais tu?

Dor.
Quid vis?

Tox.
Tu in illis es decem sodalibus:
té in exilium ire hinc oportet.

Dor.
Quid iam?

Tox.
Quia periurus es.

D.
Verba quidem haud indocte fecit.

T.
Ex tuo, inquam, usust: eme hanc.

D.
Edepol qui cum hanc magis contemplo, magis placet.

T.
Si hanc emeris,
di immortales, nullus leno te alter érit opulentior.
evortes tuo arbitratu hómines fundis, familiis;
cum optimis viris rem habebis, gratiam cupient tuam:
venient ad te comissatum.

Dor.
At ego intro mitti votuero.

Tox.
At enim illi noctu occentabunt ostium, exurent fores:
proin tu tibi iubeás concludi aédis foribus ferreis,
ferreas aedis commutes, limina indas ferrea,
ferream seram atque anellum; ne sis ferro parseris:
ferreas tute tibi impingi iubeas crassas compedis.

Dor.
I sis in malum cruciatum.

Tox.
I sane tu, hanc eme atque ausculta mihi.

Dor.
Modo uti sciam, quanti indicet.

Tox.
Vin huc vocem?

Dor.
Ego illo accessero.

Tox.
Quid agis, hospes?

Sag.
Venio, adduco hanc ad te, ut dudum dixeram.
nám heri in portum noctu navis venit. veniri hanc volo,
si potest; si non potest, iri hinc volo quantum potest.

Dor.
Salvos sis, adulescens.

Sag.
Siquidem hanc vendidero pretio suo.

Tox.
At qui aut hoc emptore vendes pulchre, aut alio non potis.

S.
Esne tu huic amicus?

T.
Tam quam di omnes qui caelum colunt.

Dor.
Tum tu mi es inimicus certus. nam generi lenonio
numquam ullus deus tám benignus fuit, qui fuerit propitius.

Sag.
Hoc age. opusnest hac tibi empta?

Dor.
Si tibi venissest opus,
mihi quoque emptast; si tibi subiti nihil est, tantumdemst mihi.

Sag.
Indica, fac pretium.

Dor.
Tua mers est, tua indicatiost.

Tox.
Aequom hic orat.

Sag.
Vin bene emere?

Dor.
Vin tu pulchre vendere?

Tox.
Ego scio hercle utrumque velle.

Dor.
Age, indica prognariter.

S.
Prius dico: hanc mancupio nemo tibi dabit. iam scis?

D.
Scio.
indica, minimo daturus qui sis, qui duci queat.

Tox.
Tace, tace. nimis tú quidem hercle homo stultus es pueriliter.

Dor.

Quid ita?

Tox.
Quia enim te ex puella prius percontari volo
quae ad rem referúnt.

Dor.
Atque hercle tu me monuisti hau male.
vide sis, ego ille doctus leno paene in foveam decidi,
ni hic adesses. quantum est adhibere hominem amicum, ubi quid
geras.

Tox.
Quo genere aut qua in patria nata sit aut quibus parentibus,
ne temere hanc te emisse dicas suasu atque impulsu meo,
volo te percontari.

Dor.
Quin laudo, inquam, consilium tuom.

T.
Nisi molestum est, percontari hanc paucis hic volt.

S.
Maxime,
suo arbitratu.

Tox.
Quid stas? adi sis tute atque ipse itidem roga,
ut tibi percontari liceat quae velis; etsi mihi
dixit dare potestatem eius; sed ego te malo tamen,
eumpse adire, ut ne contemnat te ille.

Dor.
Satis recte mones.
hospes, volo ego hanc percontari.

Sag.

A terra ad caelum, quid lubet.

Dor.
Iube dum eam hoc accedat ad me.

Sag.
I sane ac morem illi gere.
percontare, exquire quid vis.

Tox.
Age, age nunc tu, in proelium
vide ut ingrediare auspicato.

Vir.
Liquidumst auspicium, tace.
curabo ut praedati pulchre ad castra convertamini.

Tox.
Concede istuc, ego illam adducam.

Dor.
Age, ut rem esse in nostram putas.

T.
Ehodum huc, virgo. vide sis quid agas.

V.
Taceas, curabo ut voles.

Tox.
Sequere me. adduco hanc, si quid vis ex hac percontarier.

D.
Enim volo te adesse.

T.
Hau possum quin huic operam dem hospiti,
quoí erus iussit. quid si hic non volt mé adesse una?

Sag.
Immo i modo.

Tox.
Do tibi ego operam.

Dor.
Tibi ibidem das, ubi tu tuom amicum adiuvas.

Tox.
Exquire. heus tu, advigila.

Vir.
Satis est dictum: quamquam ego serva sum,
scio ego officium meum, ut quae rogiter vera, ut accepi, eloquar.

Tox.
Virgo, híc homo probus est.

Vir.
Credo.

Tox.
Non diu apud hunc servies.

Vir.
Ita pol spero, si parentes facient officium suom.

Dor.
Nolo ego te mirari, si nos ex te percontabimur
aut patriam tuam aut parentes.

Vir.
Quor ego id mirer, mi homo?
servitus mea mi interdixit, ne quid mirer meum malum.

Dor.
Noli flere.

Tox.
Ah, di istam perdant, ita catast et callida.
ut sapiens habet cór, quam dicit quod opust!

Dor.
Quid nomen tibist?

Tox.
Nunc metuo ne peccet.

Vir.
Lucridi nomen in patria fuit.

Tox.
Nomen atque omen quantivis iam est preti. quin tu hanc emis?
nimis pavebam, ne peccaret. expedivit.

Dor.
Si te emam,
mihi quoque Lucridem confido fore te.

Tox.
Tu si hanc emeris,
numquam hercle hunc mensem vortentem, credo, servibit tibi.

Dor.
Ita velim quidem hercle.

Tox.
Optata ut evenant, operam addito.
nihil adhuc peccavit etiam.

Dor.
Vbi tu nata es?

Vir.
Vt mihi
mater dixit, in culina, in angulo ad laevam manum.

Tox.
Haec erit tibi fausta meretrix: natast in calido loco,
ubi rerum omnium bonarum copiast saepissume.
tactust leno; qui rogaret, ubi nata esset diceret,
lepide lusit.

Dor.
At ego patriam te rogo quae sit tua.

Vir.
Quae mihi sít, nisi haec ubi nunc sum?

Dor.
At ego illam quaero quae fuit.

Vir.
Omne ego pro nihilo esse duco quod fuit, quando fuit:
tamquam hominem, quando animam ecflavit, quid eum quaeras
qui fuit?

Tox.
Ita me di bene ament, sapienter. atque equidem miseret tamen.
sed tamen, virgo, quae patriast tua, age mi actutum expedi.
quid taces?

Vir.
Dico equidem: quando hic servio, haec patriast mea.

Tox.
Iam de istoc rogare omitte (non vides nolle eloqui?)
ne suarúm se miseriarum in memoriam inducas.

Dor.
Quid est?
captusne est pater?

Vir.
Non captus, sed quod habuit perdidit.

Tox.
Haec erit bono genere nata: nil scit nisi verum loqui.

Dor.
Quis fuit? dic nomen.

Vir.
Quid illum miserum memorem qui fuit?
nunc et illúm miserum et me miseram aéquom est nominarier.

Dor.
Quoius modi is suo ín populo habitust?

Vir.
Nemo quisquam acceptior:
servi liberique amabant.

Tox.
Hominem miserum praedicas,
quom ét ipsus prorsus perditust et benevolentis perdidit.

Dor.
Emam, opinor.

Tox.
Etiam opinor? summo genere esse arbitror;
divitias tu ex istac facies.

Dor.
Ita di faxint.

Tox.
Eme modo.

Vir.
Iam hoc tibi dico: iam actutum ecastor meus pater, ubi me sciet veniisse, ipse aderit et me abs te redimet.

T.
Quid nunc?

D.
Quid est?

Tox.
Audin quid ait?

Vir.
Nam etsi res sunt fractae, amici sunt tamen.

Dor.
Ne sis plora; libera eris actutum, si crebro cades.
vin mea esse?

Vir.
Dum quidem ne nímis diu tua sim, volo.

Tox.
Satin ut meminit libertatis? dabit haec tibi grandis bolos.
age si quid agis. ego ad hunc redeo. sequere. redduco hanc tibi.

Dor.
Adulescens, vin vendere istanc?

Sag.
Magis libet quam perdere.

Dor.
Tum tu pauca in verba confer: qui datur, tanti indica.

Sag.
Faciam ita ut te velle video, út emas. habe centum minis.

Dor.
Nimiumst.

Sag.

Octoginta.

Dor.
Nimiumst.

Sag.
Nummus abesse hinc non potest,
quod nunc dicam.

Dor.
Quid id est ergo? eloquere actutum atque indica.

Sag.
Tuo periclo sexaginta haec dabitur argenti minis.

Dor.
Toxilé, quid ago?

Tox.
Di deaeque te agitant irati, scelus,
qui hanc non properes destinare.

D.
Habeto.

T.
Eu, praedatu's probe.
non edepol minis trecentis carast. fecisti lucri.

Sag.
Heus tu, etiam pro vestimentis huc decem accedent minae.

Dor.
Abscedent enim, nón accedent.

Tox.
Tace sis, non tu illum vides
quaerere ansam, infectum ut faciat? abin atque argentum petis?

... atque ut dignust perit.

Dor.
Heus tu serva istum.

Tox.
Quin tu is intro?

Dor.
Abeo atque argentum affero. —

Tox.
Edepol dedisti, virgo, operam adlaudabilem,
probam et sapientem et sobriam.

Vir.
Si quid bonis
boni fit, esse id et grave et gratum solet.

Tox.
Audin tu, Persa? ubi argentum ab hoc acceperis,
simulato, quasi eas prorsum in navem.

Sag.
Ne doce.

Tox.
Per angiportum rursum te ad me recipito
illac per hortum.

Sag.
Quod futurum est praedicas.

Tox.
At ne cum argento protinam permittas domum,
moneo, te.

Sag.

Quod te dignumst, me dignum esse vis?

Tox.
Tace, párce voci: praeda progreditur foras.

Dordalvs
Probae hic argenti sunt sexaginta minae,
duobus nummis minus est.

Sag.
Quid ei nummi sciunt?

Dor.
Cruminam hanc emere aut facere uti remigret domum.

Sag.
Ne non sat esses leno, id metuebas miser,
impure, avare, ne crumillam amitteres?

Tox.
Sine quaeso. quando lenost, nil mirum facit.

Dor.
Lucro faciundo ego auspicavi in hunc diem:
nil mihi tam parvist, quin me id pigeat perdere.
age, accipe hoc sis.

Sag.
Hunc in collum, nisi piget,
impone.

Dor.
Vero fiat.

Sag.
Numquid ceterum
me voltis?

Tox.
Quid tam properas?

Sag.
Ita negotiumst:
mandatae quae sunt, volo deferre epistulas;
geminum autem fratrem servire audivi hic meum,
eum ego ut requiram átque uti redimam volo.

Tox.
Atque edepol tu me commonuisti haú male.
videor vidisse hic forma persimilem tui,
eadém statura.

Sag.
Quippe qui frater siet.

Dor.
Quid est tibi nomen?

Tox.
... quod ad te attinet.

Dor.
Quid attinet non scire?

Sag.
Ausculta ergo, ut scias:
Vaniloquidorus Virginesvendonides
Nugiepiloquides Argentumexterebronides
Tedigniloquides Nugides Palponides
Quodsemelarripides Numquameripides. em tibi.

Dor.
Eu hercle, nomen multimodis scriptumst tuom.

Sag.
Ita sunt Persarum mores, longa nomina,

contortiplicata habemus. numquid ceterum
voltis?

Dor.
Vale.

Sag.
Et vos, nam animus iam in navist meus.

Tox.
Cras ires potius, hodie hic cenares.

Sag.
Vale. —

Tox.
Postquam illic hinc abiit, dicere hic quidvis licet.
ne hic tibi dies inluxit lucrificabilis.
nam non emisti hanc, verum fecisti lucri.

Dor.
Ille quidem iam scit, quid negoti gesserit,
qui mihi furtivam meo periclo vendidit,
argentum accepit, abiit. quí ego nunc scio,
an iam adseratur haec manu? quo illum sequar?
in Persas? nugas.

Tox.
Credidi gratum fore
beneficium meum apud te.

Dor.
Immo equidem gratiam
tibi, Toxile, habeo; nam te sensi sedulo
mihi dare bonam operam.

Tox.
Tibine ego? immo sedulo.

Dor.
Attat, oblitus sum intus dudum edicere
quae volui edicta. adserva hanc. —

Tox.
Salvast haec quidem.

Vir.
Pater nunc cessat.

Tox.
Quid si admoneam?

Vir.
Tempus est.

Tox.
Heus, Saturio, exi. nunc est illa occasio
inimicum ulcisci.

Satvrio
Ecce me. numquid moror?

Tox.
Age, illúc abscede procul e conspectu, tace;
ubi cum lenone me videbis conloqui,
tum turbam facito.

Sag.
Dictum sapienti sat est.

Tox.
Tunc, quando abiero —

Sag.
Quin taces? scio quid velis.

Dordalvs

Transcidi loris omnis adveniens domi,
ita mihi supellex squalet atque aedes meae.

Tox.
Redis tu tandem?

Dor.
Redeo.

Tox.
Ne ego hodie tibi
bona multa feci.

Dor.
Fateor, habeo gratiam.

Tox.
Num quippiam aliud me vis?

Dor.
Vt bene sit tibi.

Tox.
Pol istúc quidem omen iám ego usurpabo domi,
nam iam inclinabo me cum liberta tua.

Satvrio
Nisi ego illum hominem perdo, perii. atque optume
eccum ipsum ante aedes.

Vir.
Salve multum, mi pater.

Sat.
Salve, mea gnata.

Dor.
Ei, Persa me pessum dedit.

Vir.
Pater hic meus est.

Dor.
Hem, quid? pater? perii oppido.
quid ego igitur cesso infelix lamentarier
minas sexaginta?

Sat.
Ego pol te faciam, scelus,
te quoque etiam ipsum ut lamenteris.

Dor.
Occidi.

Sat.
Age ambula in ius, leno.

Dor.
Quid me in ius vocas?

Sat.
Illi apud praetorem dicam. sed ego in ius voco.

Dor.
Nonne antestaris?

Sat.
Tuan ego causa, carnufex,
cuiquam mortali libero auris atteram,
qui hic commercaris civis homines liberos?

Dor.
Sine dicam.

Sat.
Nolo.

Dor.
Aúdi.

Sat.
Surdus sum. ambula.
sequere hac, sceleste, feles virginaria.
sequere hac, mea gnata, me usque ad praetorem. —

Vir.
Sequor. —

ACT V.

Toxilvs
Hostíbus victis, civíbus salvis, re plácida, pacibus pérfectis,
bello éxstincto, re béne gestá, integró exércitu et praésidiis,
cum béne nos, Iuppiter, iúvisti, dique álii omnes caelípotentes,
eas vóbis habeo grátes atque ago, quía probe sum últus meum
ínimicum.
nunc ób eam rem inter párticipes didám praedam et partícipabo.
íte foras: híc volo ante óstium et iánuam
meos párticipes bene accípere.
státuite hic léctulos, pónite hic quae ádsolent.
hic státui volo primum † aliqua mihi,
unde égo omnis hilaros, lúdentis, laetíficantis faciam út fiant,
quorum ópera mihi facilía factu facta haéc sunt, quae volui éffieri.
nam impróbus est homo qui béneficium scit áccipere et reddére
nescit.

Lemnisilenis
Toxíle mi, cur ego síne te sum, cur tu aútem sine me es?

T.
Ágedum ergo,
accéde ad me atque ampléctere sis.

Lemn.
Ego véro.

Tox.
Oh, nihil hoc mágis dulcest.
sed, amábo, oculus meus, quín lectis nos áctutum comméndamus?

Lemn.
Omnía quae tu vis, éa cupio.

Tox.
Mutúa fiunt a me. age, age ergo,

tu Ságaristio, accumbe ín summo.

Sagaristio
Ego níl moror: cedo parem, quém pepigi.

Tox.
Temperí.

Sag.
Mi istuc temperí serost.

Tox.
Hoc age, accúmbe. hunc diém suavem
meum nátalem agitemús amoenum. date aquám manibus, apponíte mensam.
do hanc tíbi florentem flórenti. tu hic éris dictatrix nóbis.

Lemn.
Age, púere, ab summo séptenis cyathís committe hos lúdos.

Tox.
Move mánus, propera, Paegniúm, tarde cyathós mihi das, cedo sáne.
bene míhi, bene vobis, béne meae amicae, optátus hic míhi dies dátus hodiést.
ab dís, quia te licet líberam med amplécti.

Lemn.
Tua factum ópera.

Tox.
Bene omníbus nobis. hoc méa manus tuaé poclúm donat, ut amántem
amantí decet.

Lemn.
Cédo.

Tox.

Accípe.

Tox.
Bene eí qui invidét mi et eí qui hoc gaúdet.

Dordalvs
Qui súnt † qui erunt quiqué fuerunt quiqué futuri sunt pósthac,
solus ego omnibus antideo facilé, miserrímus hominum út vivam.
perii, ínterii. pessímus hic mi dies hódie inluxit córruptor,
ita mé Toxilus perfábricavit itaqué meam rem divéxavit.
vehiclum árgenti miser éieci amisi, neque quam ób rem eieci, hábeo.
qui illúm Persam atque omnís Persas atque étiam omnis persónas
male di ómnes perdant, íta misero Toxílus haec mihi concívit.
quia eí fidem non habui árgenti, eo míhi eas machinas mólitust;
quem pól ego ut non in crúciatum atque in cómpedis cogam, sí vivam,
siquidem húc umquam erus rediérit eius, quod spéro — sed quid ego áspicio?
hoc víde, quae haec fabulast? híc quidem pol potánt. adgrediar. ó bone vir,
salvéto, et tu, bona líberta.

Tox.
Dordálus hic quidemst.

Sag.
Quin iúbe adire.

Tox.
Adi, sí libet.

Sag.
Agite, adplaúdamus.

Tox.
Dordále, homo lepidissúme, salve.
locus híc tuos est, hic accumbe. férte aquam pédibus. praeben tú

puere?

Dor.
Ne sís me uno digito áttigeris, ne te ád terram, scelus, ádfligam.

Paeg.
At tíbi ego hoc continuó cyatho oculum éxcutiam † tuum.

Dor.
Quid aís, crux, stimulorúm tritor? quo módo me hodie versávisti,
ut me ín tricas coniécisti, quo módo de Persa mánus mi aditast?

Tox.
Iurgium hínc auféras, si sápias.

Dor.
At, bóna liberta, haec scívisti et me célavisti?

Lemn.
Stúltitiast,
cui béne esse licet, eum praévorti litíbus. posterius ístaec te
magis pár agerest.

Dor.
Vrítur cor mi.

Tox.
Da illí cantharum, extingue ígnem, si
cor úritur, caput ne ardéscat.

Dor.
Lúdos me fácitis, intéllego.

Tox.
Vín cinaedúm novom tíbi dari, Paégnium?
quín elude, út soles, quándo libér locust hic.
huí, babae, básilice te íntulisti ét facete.

Paeg.
Decét me facétum esse, et húnc inridére
lenónem lubídost, quandó dignus ést.

Tox.
Perge út coeperás.

Paeg.
Hoc, léno, tibí.

Dor.
Perií perculít me prope.

Paeg.
Em, serva rúsum.

Dor.
Delúde, ut lubet, erus dum hínc abest.

Paeg.
Viden út tuis dictis páreo?
sed quín tu meís contra itém dictis sérvis
atque hóc, quod tibí suadeó, facis?

Dor.
Quid ést id?

Paeg.
Restím tu tibí cápe crassam ac suspende te.

Dor.
Cave sís me attigás, ne tibi hóc scipióne
malúm magnum dém.

Paeg.
Vteré, te condóno.

Tox.

Iam iám, Paegnium, da paúsam.

Dor.
Égo pol vos erádicabo.

Paeg.
At te ílle, qui suprá nos habitat,
qui tibi male volt maleque faciet. non hi dicunt, verum ego.

Tox.
Age, circumfer mulsum, bibere da usque plenis cantharis.
iam diu fáctum est, postquam bibimus; nimis diu sicci sumus.

Dor.
Di faciant ut id bibatis quod vos numquam transeat.

Sag.
Nequeo, leno, quin tibi saltem staticulum, olim quem Hegea faciebat. vide vero, si tibi satis placet.

Tox.
Me quoque volo
reddere, Diodorus quem olim faciebat in Ionia.

Dor.
Malum ego vobis dabo, ni abitis.

Sag.
Etiam muttis, impudens?
iam ego tibi, si me inritassis, Persam adducam denuo.

D.
iam taceo hercle Atque tu Persa es, qui me usque ádmutilavisti ad cutem.

T.
Tace, stulte: hic eius geminust frater.

D.
Hicinest?

T.
Ac geminissumus.

Dor.
Di deaeque et te et geminum fratrem excrucient.

Sag.
Qui te perdidit:
nám ego nil merui.

Dor.
At enim quod ille meruit, tibi id obsit volo.

Tox.
Agite sultis, hunc lúdificemus.

Lemn.
Nisi si dignust, non opust.
et me haud par est.

Tox.
Credo eo, quia non ínconciliavit, cúm te emo.

Lemn.
At tamen non — tamen —

Tox.
Cave ergo sis maló, et sequere me.
te mihí dicto audientem esse addecet, nam hercle absque me
foret et meo praesidio, hic faceret te prostibilem propediem.
sed ita pars libertinorum est: nisi patrono qui adversatust,
nec satis liber sibi videtur nec satis frugi nec sat honestus,
ní id effecit, ni ei male dixit, ni grato ingratus repertust.

Lemn.

Pol bene facta tua me hortantur, tuo ut imperio paream.

Tox.
Ego sum tibi patronus plane, qui huic pro te argentum dedi.
... gráphice hunc volo ludíficari.

Lemn.
Meo ego ín loco sedulo cúrabo.

Dor.
Certo ílli homines mihi néscio quid mali cónsulunt, quod faciánt.

Sag.
Heus vos.

Tox.
Quid aís?

Sag.
Hicin Dordalus ést leno, qui hic liberas virgines mércatur?
hicinést, qui fuit quondám fortis?

D.
Quae haec rés est? ei, colaphó me icit.
malum vóbis dabo.

Tox.
At tibi nós dedimus dabimúsque etiam.

Dor.
Ei, natis pérvellit.

Paeg.
Licet: iám diu saepe sunt éxpunctae.

Dor.
Loqueré tu etiam, frustúm pueri?

Lemn.

Patróne mi, i intro, amábo, ad cenam.

Dor.
Mea Ignávia, tu nunc me ínrides?

L.
Quíane te vocó, bene ut tíbi sit?

D.
Nólo mihi bene ésse.

L.
Ne sit.

Tox.
Quíd igitur? sescénti nummi quíd agunt, quas turbás danunt?

Dor.
Mále disperii, scíunt referre próbe inimico grátiam.

Tox.
Satis súmpsimus súpplici iam.

Dor.
Fateór, manus vobís do.

Tox.
Et póst dabis sub fúrcis.

Sag.
Abi íntro — in crucem.

Dor.
Án me hic parum éxercitum hísce
habént?

Tox.
Convenísse te Tóxilum me ...
spéctatores, bene valete. leno periit. plaudite.

POENULUS

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PROLOGVS

Achillem Aristarchi mihi commentari lubet:
inde míhi principium capiam, ex ea tragoedia.
sileteque et tacete atque animum advortite,
audire iúbet vos imperator histricus,
bonoque ut animo sedeate in subselliis,
et qui esurientes et qui saturi venerint:
qui edistis, multo fecistis sapientius,
qui non edistis, saturi fite fabulis;
nam cui paratumst quod edit, nostra gratia
nimia est stultitia sessum impransum incedere.
exsurge, praeco, fac populo audientiam;
iam dudum exspecto, si tuom officium scias:
exerce vocem, quam per vivisque et † colis.
nam nisi clamabis, tacitum te obrepet fames.
age nunc reside, duplicem ut mercedem feras.

* * *

bonum factum esse, edicta ut servetis mea.
scortum exoletum ne quis in proscaenio
sedeat, neu lictor verbum aut virgae muttiant,
neu dissignator praeter os obambulet
neu sessum ducat, dum histrio in scaena siet.
diu quí domi otiosi dormierunt, decet
animo aequo nunc stent, vel dormire temperent.
servi ne obsideant, liberis ut sit locus,
vel aes pro capite dent; si id facere non queunt,
domum abeant, vitent ancipiti infortunio,
ne et hic varientur virgis et loris domi,
si minus curassint, quóm eri reveniant domum.
nutrices pueros infantis minutulos
domi ut procurent neu quae spectatum adferat,
ne et ipsae sitiant et pueri pereant fame
neve esurientes hic quasi haedi obvagiant.

matronae tacitae spectent, tacitae rideant,
canora hic voce sua tinnire temperent,
domum sermones fabulandi conferant,
ne et hic viris sint et domi molestiae.
quodque ad ludorum curatores attinet,
ne palma detur quoiquam artifici iniuria
neve ambitionis causa extrudantur foras,
quo deteriores anteponantur bonis.
et hoc quoque etiam, quod paene oblitus fui:
dum ludi fiunt, in popinam, pedisequi,
inruptionem facite; nunc dum occasio est,
nunc dum scriblitae aéstuant, occurrite.
haec quae imperata sunt pro imperio hístrico,
bonum hercle factum pro se quisque ut meminerit.
ad argumentum nunc vicissatim volo
remigrare, ut aeque mecum sitis gnarures.
eius núnc regiones, limites, confinia
determinabo: ei rei ego finitor factus sum.
sed nisi molestumst, nomen dare vobis volo
comoediai; sin odiost, dicam tamen,
siquidém licebit pér illos quibus est in manu.
Carchedonius vocatur haec comoedia,

55

* * *

latine Plautus patruus pultiphagonides.
nomen iam habetis. nunc rationes ceteras
accipite; nam argumentum hoc hic censebitur:
locus argumentost suom sibi proscaenium,
vos iuratores estis. quaeso, operam date.
Carthaginienses fratres patrueles duo
fuere, summo genere et summis ditiis;
eorum álter vivit, alter est emortuos.
propterea apud vos dico confidentius,
quia mihi pollictor dixit qui eum pollinxerat.

sed illí seni qui mortuost, ei filius,
unicus qui fuerat, ab divitiis a patre
puer séptuennis surripitur Carthagine,
sexennio prius quidem quam moritur pater.
quoniam periisse sibi videt gnatum unicum,
conicitur ipse in morbum ex aegritudine:
facit illum heredem fratrem patruelem suom,
ipse abit ad Acheruntem sine viatico.
ille quí surripuit puerum Calydonem avehit,
vendit eum domino hic diviti quoidam seni,
cupienti liberorum, osori mulierum.
emit hospitalem is filium imprudens senex
puerum illum eumque adoptat sibi pro filio
eumque heredem fecit, quom ipse obiit diem.
is illíc adulescens habitat in illisce aedibus.
revertor rursus denuo Carthaginem:
si quid mandare voltis aut curarier,
argentum nisi qui dederit, nugas egerit;
verum qui dederit, magis maiores nugas egerit.
sed illi patruo húius, qui vivit senex,
Carthaginiensi duae fuere filiae,
altera quinquennis, altera quadrimula:
cum nutrice una periere a Magaribus.
eas quí surripuit, in Anactorium devehit,
vendit eas omnis, et nutricem et virgines,
praesenti argento hómini, si leno est homo,
quantum hominum terra sustinet sacerrumo.
vosmet nunc facite coniecturam ceterum,
quid id sit hominis, cui Lyco nomen siet.
is ex Anactorio, ubi prius habitaverat,
huc commigravit in Calydonem haú diu,
sui quaésti causa. is in illis habitat aedibus.
earum híc adulescens alteram efflictim perit,
suam síbi cognatam, imprudens, neque scit quae siet
neque eam umquam tetigit, ita eum leno macerat:
neque quicquam cúm ea fecit etiamnum stupri
neque duxit umquam, neque ille voluit mittere

quia amare cernit, tangere hominem volt bolo.
illam minorem in concubinatum sibi
volt emere miles quidam, qui illam deperit.
sed pater illarum Poenus, postquam eas perdidit,
mari terraque úsquequaque quaeritat.
ubi quamque in urbem ést ingressus, ilico
omnes meretrices, ubi quisque habitant, invenit;
dat aurum, ducit noctem, rogitat postibi
unde sít, quoiatis, captane an surrupta sit,
quo genere gnata, qui parentes fuerint.
ita docte atque astu filias quaerit suas.
et is omnis linguas scit, sed dissimulat sciens
se scire: Poenus plane est. quid verbis opust?
is heri huc in portum navi venit vesperi,
pater harunc; idem huic patruos adulescentulo est:
iamne hoc tenetis? si tenetis, ducite;
cave dírumpatis, quaeso, sinite transigi.
ehem, paéne oblitus sum relicuom dicere.
ille quí adoptavit hunc sibi pro filio,
is illi Poeno húius patruo hospes fuit.
is hodie huc veniet reperietque hic filias
et hunc sui fratris filium, ut quidem dídici ego.
ego ibo, ornabor; vos aequo animo noscite.
hic qui hodie veniet, reperiet suas filias
et hunc sui fratris filium. dehinc ceterum
valete, adeste. ibo, alius nunc fieri volo:
quod restat, restant alii qui faciant palam.
valete atque adiuvate, ut vos servet Salus.

ACT I.

Agorastocles
Saepe ego res multas tibi mandavi, Milphio,
dubias, egenas, inopiosas consili,
quas tu sapienter, docte et cordate et cate
mihi reddidisti ópiparas opera tua.
quibus pró bene factis fateor deberi tibi
et libertatem et multas grates gratias.

Milphio
Scitumst, per tempus si obviamst, verbum vetus.
nam tuae blanditiae mihi sunt, quod dici solet,
gerrae germanae, σαὶ δὲ κολλῦραι λύραι.
nunc mihi blandidicus es: heri in tergo meo
tris facile corios contrivisti bubulos.

Agor.
Amans per amorem si quid feci, Milphio,
ignoscere id te mi aequom est.

Mil.
Haud vidi magis.
em, nunc ego amore pereo. sine te verberem,
item ut tu mihi fecisti, ob nullam noxiam:
post id locorum tu mihi amanti ignoscito.

Agor.
Si tibi lubido est aut voluptati, sino:
suspende, vinci, verbera; auctor sum, sino.

Mil.
Si auctoritatem postea defugeris,
ubi dissolutus tu sies, ego pendeam.

Agor.
Egone istuc ausim facere, praesertim tibi?

quin si feriri video te, extemplo dolet.

Mil.
Mihi quidem hercle.

Ag.

Immo mihi.

Mil.
Istuc mavelim.
sed quid nunc tibi vis?

Agor.
Cur ego apud te mentiar?
amo immodeste.

Mil.
Meae istuc scapulae sentiunt.

Agor.
At ego hanc vicinam dico Adelphasium meam,
lenonis huius meretricem maiusculam.

Mil.
Iam pridem equidem istuc ex te audivi.

Agor.

Differor
cupidine eius. sed lenone istoc Lyco,
illius domino, non lutumst lutulentius.

Mil.
Vin tu illi nequam dare nunc?

Agor.
Cupio.

Mil.
Em me dato.

Agor.
Abi díerectus.

Mil.
Dic mihi vero serio:
vin dare malum illi?

Agor.
Cupio.

Mil.
Em, eundem me dato:
utrumque faxo habebit, et nequam et malum.

Agor.
Iocare.

Mil.
Vin tu illam hodie sine damno et dispendio
tuo túam libertam facere?

Agor.
Cupio, Milphio.

Mil.
Ego faciam ut facias. sunt tibi intus aurei
trecenti nummi Philippi?

Agor.
Sescenti quoque.

Mil.
Satis súnt trecenti.

Agor.

Quid iis facturu's?

Mil.
Tace.
totum lenonem tibi cum tota familia
dabo hodie dono.

Agor.
Qui id facturu's?

Mil.
Iam scies.
tuos Cóllybiscus nunc in urbest vilicus;
eum hic non novit leno. satin intellegis?

Agor.
Intellego hercle, sed quo evadas nescio.

Mil.
Non scis?

Agor.
Non hercle.

Mil.
At ego iam faxo scies.
ei dabitur aurum, ut ad lenonem deferat
dicatque se peregrinum esse, ex alio oppido:
se amare velle atque obsequí animo suo;
locum sibi velle liberum praeberier,
ubi nequam faciat clam, ne quis sit arbiter.
leno ad se accipiet auri cupidus ilico:
celabit hominem et aurum.

Agor.
Consilium placet.

Mil.

Rogato, servos veneritne ad eum tuos.
ille mé censebit quaeri: continuo tibi
negabit. quid tu dubitas, quin extempulo
dupli tibi auri et hominis fur leno siet?
neque id unde efficiat habet: ubi in ius venerit,
addicet praetor familiam totam tibi.
ita decipiemus fovea lenonem Lycum.

Agor.
Placet consilium.

Mil.
Immo etiam, ubi expolivero,
magis hoc tum demum dices: nunc etiam rudest.

Agor.
Ego in aedem Veneris eo, nisi quid vis, Milphio.
Aphrodisia hodie sunt.

Mil.
Scio.

Agor.
Oculos volo
meos délectare munditiis meretriciis.

Mil.
Hoc primum agamus quod consilium cepimus.
abeamus intro, ut Collybiscum vilicum
hanc perdoceamus ut ferat fallaciam.

Agor.
Quamquam Cupido in corde vorsatur, tamen
tibi auscultabo. —

Mil.
Faciam ut facto gaudeas.
inest amoris macula huic homini in pectore,

sine damno magno quae elui ne utiquam potest.
itaque hic scelestus est homo leno Lycus,
quoi iam infortuni intenta ballistast probe,
quam ego haud multo post mittam e ballistario.
sed Adelphasium eccam exit atque Anterastilis.
haec est prior, quae meum erum dementem facit.
sed evocabo. heus, i foras, Agorastocles,
si vis videre ludos iucundissimos.

Agorastocles
Quid istúc tumultist, Milphio?

Mil.
Em amores tuos,
si vis spectare.

Agor.
O multa tibi di dent bona,
quom hoc mi optulisti tam lepidum spectaculum.

Adelphasivm
Negóti sibí qui volét vim paráre,
navem et mulierem, haec duo comparato.
nam nullae magis res duae plus negoti
habent, forte si occeperis exornare,
neque umquam satis hae duae res ornantur
neque eis ulla ornandi satis satietas est.
atque haec, ut loquor, nunc domo docta dico.
nam nos usque ab aurora ad hoc quod diei est,
postquam aurora inluxit, numquam concessamus
ex industria ambae numquam concessamus
lavari aut fricari aut tergeri aut ornari,
poliri expoliri, pingi fingi; et una
binae singulis quae dataé nobis ancíllae,
eae nos lavando eluendo operam déderunt,
aggerúndaque aqua sunt viri duo defessi.
apage sis, negoti quantum in muliere una est.

sed vero duae, sat scio, maxumo uni
poplo cuilubet plus satis dare potis sunt,
quae noctes diesque omni in aetate semper
ornantur, lavantur, tergentur, poliuntur.
postremo modus muliebris nullust: numquam
lavando et fricando scimus facere finem.
nam quae lauta est nisi perculta est, meo quidem animo quasi inluta est.

Anterastilis
Mirór equidem, sóror, te istaec sic fabulari,
quae tam callida et docta sis et faceta.
nam quom sedulo munditer nos habemus,
vix aegreque amatorculos invenimus.

Ad.

Ita est. verum hoc unum tamen cogitato:
modus ómnibus rebús, soror, optimus est habitu.
nimia ómnia nimium éxhibent negóti hominibus éx se.

Ant.
Sorór, cogitá, amabo, itém nos perhibéri
quam si salsa muriatica esse autumantur:
sine omni lepore et síne suavitate
nisí multa aqua usque et diu macerantur,
olént, salsa súnt, tangere út non velís.
itém nos sumús
eius seminis mulieres sunt
insúlsae admodum átque invenústae
sine múnditia et súmptu.

Mil.
Coqua ést haec quidem, Ágorastoclés, ut ego opínor:
scit, muriatica ut maceret.

Agor.
Quid molestu's?

Ad.

Soror, parce, amabo: sat est istuc alios
dicere nobis, ne nosmet in nostra etiam vitia loquamur.

Ant.
Quiésco.

Ad.

Ergo amó te. sed hóc nunc respónde
mihí: sunt hic ómnia,
quae ad deúm pacem opórtet adésse?

Ant.
Omnia áccuravi.

Agor.
Diém pulchrum et célebrem et venústatis plénum,
dignúm Venere pól, quoi sunt Áphrodisia hódie.

Mil.
Ecquid gratiae, quom huc foras te evocavi?
iam núm me decét donari
cadó vini véteris? dic dáre. nil respóndes?
lingua huíc excidít, ut ego opínor.
quíd hic, malum, astans ópstipuisti?

Agor.
Síne amem, ne opturba ac tace.

Mil.
Taceo.

Agor.
Si tacuisses, iam istuc taceo non gnatum foret.

Ant.

Eamus, mea soror.

Ad.

Eho amabo, quid illo nunc properas?

Ant.
Rogas?
quia erus nos apud aedem Veneris mantat.

Ad.

Maneat pol. mane.
turba est nunc apud aram. an te ibi vis inter istás versarier
prosedas, pistorum amicas, reliquias alicarias,
miseras schoeno delibutas servolicolas sordidas,
quae tibi olant stabulum statumque, sellam et sessibulum merum,
quas adeo hau quisquam umquam liber tetigit neque duxit domum,
servolorum sordidulorum scorta diobolaria?

Mil.
I in malam crucem. tun audes etiam servos spernere,
propudium? quasi bella sit, quasi eampse reges ductitent,
monstrum mulieris, tantilla tanta verba funditat,
quoius egó nebulai cyatho septem noctes non emam.

Agor.
Di immortales omnipotentes, quid est apud vos pulchrius?
quid habetis qui mage immortales vos credam esse quam ego siem,
qui haec tanta oculis bona concipio? nam Venus non est Venus:
hanc equidem Venerem venerabor, me ut amet posthac propitia.
Milphio, heus, ubi es?

Mil.
Assum ápud te, eccum.

Agor.
At ego elixus sis volo.

Mil.
Enim vero, ere, facis delicias.

Agor.
De tequidem haéc didici omnia.

Mil.
Etiamne ut ames eam quam numquam tetigeris?

Agor.
Nihil id quidemst:
deos quoque edepol et amo et metuo, quíbus tamen ábstineo manus.

Ant.
Eu ecastor, quom ornatum aspicio nostrum ambarum, paenitet exornatae ut simus.

Ad.

Immo vero sane commode;
nam pro erili et nostro quaestu satis bene ornatae sumus.
non enim pótis est quaestus fieri, ni sumptus sequitur, scio,
et tamen quaéstus non consistet, si eum sumptus superat, soror.
eo illud satiust, satis quod habitu, haud satis est quod plus quam sat est.

Agor.
Ita me di ament, ut illa me amet malim quam di, Milphio.
nam illa mulier lapidem silicem subigere, ut se amet, potest.

Mil.
Pol id quidem hau mentire, nam tu es lapide silice stultior,
qui hanc ames.

Agor.
At vide sis, cum illac numquam limavi caput.

Mil.

Curram igitur aliquo ad piscinam aut ad lacum, limum petam.

Agor.
Quid eo opust?

Mil.
Ego dicam: ut illi ét tibi limem caput.

Agor.
I in malam rem.

Mil.
Ibi sum équidem.

Agor.
Perdis.

Mil.
Taceo.

Agor.
At perpetuo volo.

Mil.
Enim vero, ere, meo me lacessis ludo et delicias facis.

Ant.
Satis nunc lepide ornatam credo, soror, te tibi viderier;
sed ubi exempla conferentur meretricum aliarum, ibi tibi
erit cordolium, si quam ornatam melius forte aspexeris.

Ad.

Invidia in me numquam innatast neque malitia, mea soror.
bono med esse ingenio ornatam quam auro multo mavolo:
aurum, id fortuna invenitur, natura ingenium bonum.
bonam ego quam beatam me esse nimio dici mavolo.
meretricem pudorem gerere magis decet quam purpuram:

magisque meretricem pudorem quam aurum gerere condecet.
pulchrum ornatum turpes mores peius caeno conlinunt,
lepidi mores turpem ornatum facile factis comprobant.

Agor.
Eho tu, vin tu facinus facere lepidum et festivom?

Mil.
Volo.

Agor.
Potesne mi auscultare?

Mil.
Possum.

Agor.
Abi domum ac suspende te.

Mil.
Quam ob rem?

Agor.
Quia iam numquam audibis verba tot tam suavia.
quid tibi opust vixisse? ausculta mihi modo ac suspende te.

Mil.
Siquidem tu es mecum futurus pro uva passa pensilis.

Agor.
At ego amo hanc.

Mil.
At ego esse et bibere.

Ad.

Eho tu, quid ais?

Ant.
Quid rogas?

Ad.

Viden tu? pleni oculi sorderum quí erant, iam splendent mihi.

Ant.
Immo etiam in medio oculo paullum sordest.

Ad.

Cedo sis dexteram.

Agor.
Vt quidem tu huius oculos inlutis manibus tractes aut teras?

Ant.
Nimia nos socordia hodie tenuit.

Ad.

Qua de re, obsecro?

Ant.
Quia non iam dudum ante lucem ad aedem Veneris venimus,
primae ut inferremus ignem in aram.

Ad.

Aha, non factost opus:
quaé habent nocturna ora, noctu sacruficatum ire occupant.
prius quam Venus expergiscatur, prius deproperant sedulo
sacruficare; nam vigilante Venere si veniant eae,
ita sunt turpes, credo ecastor Venerem ipsam e fano fugent.

Agor.
Milphio.

Mil.
Edepol Milphionem miserum. quid nunc vis tibi?

Agor.
Opsecro hercle, ut mulsa loquitur.

Mil.
Nil nisi laterculos,
sesumam papaveremque, triticum et frictas nuces.

Ag.

Ecquid amare videor?

M.
Damnum, quod Mercurius minime amat.

Agor.
Namque edepol lucrum amare nullum amatorem addecet.

Ant.
Eamus, mea germana.

Ad.

Age sis, ut lubet.

Ant.
Sequere hac.

Ad.

Sequor.

Mil.
Eunt hae.

Agor.
Quid si adeamus?

Mil.
Adeas.

Agor.
Primum prima salva sis,
et secunda tu secundo salve in pretio; tertia
salve extra pretium.

Anc.
Tum pol ego et oleum et operam perdidi.

Agor.
Quo te agis?

Ad.

Egone? in aedem Veneris.

Agor.
Quid eo?

Ad.

Vt Venerem propitiem.

Agor.
Eho, an irata est? propitia hercle est. vel ego pro illa spondeo.
quid tu ais?

Ad.

Quid mihi molestu's, opsecro?

Agor.
Aha, tam saeviter.

Ad.

Mitte, amabo.

Agor.
Quid festinas? turba nunc illi est.

Ad.

Scio.
sunt illi aliae quas spectare ego, et me spectari volo.

Agor.
Qui lubet spectare turpes, pulchram spectandam dare?

Ad.

Quia apud aedem Veneris hodie est mercatus meretricius:
eo conveniunt mercatores, ibi ego me ostendi volo.

Agor.
Invendibili merci oportet ultro emptorem adducere:
proba mers facile emptorem reperit, tam etsi in abstruso sitast.
quid ais tu? quando illi apud me mecum caput et corpus copulas?
†

Ad.

Quo die Orcus Acherunte mortuos amiserit.

Agor.
Sunt mihi intus nescio quot nummi aurei lymphatici.

Ad.

Deferto ad me, faxo actutum constiterit lymphaticum.

Mil.
Bellula hercle.

Agor.
I díerecte in maxumam malam crucem.

Mil.
Quam magis aspecto, tam magis est nimbata et nugae merae.

Ad.

Segrega sermonem. taedet.

Agor.
Age, sustolle hoc amiculum.

Ad.

Pura sum, comperce amabo me attrectare, Agorastocles.

Agor.
Quid agam nunc?

Ad.

Si sapias, curam hanc facere compendi potes.

Ag.

Quid? ego non te curem? quid ais, Milphio?

M.
Ecce odium meum.
quid me vis?

Ag.

Cur mi haec irata est?

M.
Cur haec irata est tibi?
cur ego id curem? namque istaec magis meast curatio. †

Agor.
Iam hercle tu periisti, nísi illam mihi tam tranquillam facis

quam mare olimst, quóm ibi alcedo pullos educit suos.

Mil.
Quid faciam?

Agor.
Exora, blandire, expalpa.

Mil.
Faciam sedulo.
sed vide sís, ne tu oratorem hunc pugnis pectas postea.

Agor.
Non faciam.

Ad.

Non aequos in me es, sed morare et male facis.
bene promittis multa ex multis: omnia in cassum cadunt.
liberare iuravisti me haud semel, sed centiens:
dum te exspecto, neque ego usquam aliam mihi paravi copiam
neque istuc usquam apparet; ita nunc servio nihilo minus.
i, soror. apscede tu a me.

Agor.
Perii. ecquid agis, Milphio?

Mil.
Mea voluptas, mea delicia, mea vita, mea amoenitas,
meus ocellus, meum labellum, mea salus, meum savium,
meum mel, meum cor, mea colustra, meus molliculus caseus —

Agor.
Mene ego illaéc patiar praesente dici? discrucior miser,
nisi ego illum iubeo quadrigis cursim ad carnificem rapi.

Mil.
Noli, amabo, suscensere ero meo, causa mea.

ego faxo, si non irata es, ninnium pro te dabit
atque te fáciet ut sis civis Attica atque libera.
quin adire sínis? quin tibi qui bene volunt, bene vis item?
si ante quid mentitust, nunciam dehinc érit verax tibi.
sine te exorem, sine prehendam auriculis, sine dem savium.

Ad.

Apscede hinc sis, sycophanta par ero.

Mil.
At scin quo modo?
iam hercle ego faciam ploratillum, nisi te facio propitiam,
atque hic ne me verberetillum faciat, nisi te propitio,
male formido: novi ego huius mores morosi malos.
quam ob rem amabo, mea voluptas, sine te hoc exorarier.

Agor.
Non ego homo trioboli sum, nisi ego illi mastigiae
exturbo oculos atque dentes. em voluptatem tibi,
em mel, em cor, em labellum, em salutem, em savium.

Mil.
Impias, ere, te: oratorem verberas.

Agor.
Iam istoc magis:
etiam ocellum addam et labellum et linguam.

Mil.
Ecquid facies modi?

Ag.

sicine ego te orare iussi?

Mil.
Quo modo ergo orem?

Ag.

Rogas?
sic enim díceres, sceleste: huius voluptas, te opsecro,
huius mel, huius cor, huius labellum, huius lingua, huius savium,
huius delicia, huiús salus amoena, huius festivitas:
huius colustra, huius dulciculus caseus, mastigia,
huius cor, huius studium, huius savium, mastigia
omnia illa, quae dicebas tua, ésse ea memorares mea.

Mil.
Opsecro hercle te, voluptas huius atque odium meum,
huius amica mammeata, mea inimica et malevola,
oculus huius, lippitudo mea, mel huius, fel meum,
ut tu huic irata ne sis aut, si id fieri non potest,
capias restim ac te suspendas cúm ero et vostra familia.
nam mihi iam video propter te victitandum sorbilo,
itaque iam quasi ostreatum tergum ulceribus gestito
propter amorem vestrum.

Ad.

Amabo, men prohibere postulas
ne te verberet magis quám ne mendax me advorsum siet?

Ant.
Aliquid huic responde, amabo, commode, ne incommodus
nobis sit. nam detinet nos de nostro negotio.

Ad.

Verum. etiam tibi hanc amittam noxiam unam, Agorastocles.
non sum irata.

Agor.
Non es?

Ad.

Non sum.

Agor.
Da ergo, ut credam, savium.

Ad.

Mox dabo, quom ab re divina rediero.

Agor.
I ergo strenue.

Ad.

Sequere me, soror.

Agor.
Atque audin etiam? Veneri dicito
multam meis verbis salutem.

Ad.

Dicam.

Ag.

Atque hoc audi.

Ad.

Quid est?

Agor.
Paucis verbis rem divinam facito. atque audin? respice.
respexit. idem edepol Venerem credo facturam tibi.
quid nunc mi es auctor, Milphio?

Mil.
Vt me verberes

atque auctionem facias: nam impunissume
tibi quidem hercle vendere hasce aedis licet.

Agor.
Quid iam?

Mil.
Maiorem partem in ore habitas meo.

Agor.
Supersede istis verbis.

Mil.
Quid nunc vis tibi?

Agor.
Trecentos Philippos Collybisco vilico
dedi dúdum, prius quam me evocavisti foras.
nunc opsecro te, Milphio, hanc per dexteram
perque hanc sororem laevam perque oculos tuos
perque meos amores perque Adelphasium meam
perque tuam libertatem —

Mil.
Em nunc nihil opsecras.

Agor.
Mi Milphidisce, mea commoditas, mea salus,
fac quod facturum te esse promisti mihi,
ut ego hunc lenonem perdam.

Mil.
Perfacile id quidemst.
i, adduce testis tecum; ego intus interim
iam et ornamentis meis et sycophantiis
tuom exornabo vilicum. propera atque abi.

Agor.

Fugio.

Mil.
Meum est ístuc magis officium quam tuom.

Agor.
Egone egone, si istuc lepide ecfexis —

Mil.
I modo.

Agor.
Vt non ego te hodie —

Mil.
Abi modo.

Agor.
Emittam manu —

Mil.
I modo.

Ag.

Non hercle meream.

Mil.
Oh —

Ag.

Vah —

Mil.
Abi modo.

Agor.
Quantum Acheruntest mortuorum.

Mil.
Etiamne abis?

Agor.
Neque quantum aquaist in mari.

Mil.
Abiturun es?

Agor.
Neque nubes omnes quantumst.

Mil.
Pergin pergere?

Agor.
Neque stellae in caelo.

Mil.
Pergin auris tundere?

Agor.
Neque hoc neque illud neque — enim vero serio —
neque — hercle vero — quid opust verbis? quippini?
quod uno verbo — dicere hic quidvis licet,
neque — hercle vero serio, scin quomodo?
ita me di amabunt, vin bona dicam fide,
quod hic inter nos liceat? ita me Iuppiter,
scin quam videtur? credin quod ego fabuler?

Mil.
Si nequeo facere ut abeas, egomet abiero;
nam isti quidem hercle orationi Oedipo
opust cóniectore, qui Sphingi interpres fuit. —

Agor.
Illic hínc iratus abiit. nunc mihi cautio est,
ne meámet culpa meo amori obiexim moram.

ibo atque arcessam testis, quando Amor iubet
me oboedientem ésse servo liberum. —

ACT II.

Lycvs
Di illum infelicent omnes, qui post hunc diem
leno ullam Veneri umquam immolarit hostiam
quive ullum turis granum sacruficaverit.
nam ego hodie infelix dis meis iratissumis
sex immolavi ágnos, nec potui tamen
propitiam Venerem facere utí esset mihi.
quoniam litare nequeo, ábii illim ilico
iratus, votui éxta prosicarier;
neque ea poricere volui, quoniam non bona
haruspex dixit: deam esse indignam credidi.
eo pacto avarae Veneri pulchre adii manum.
quando id quod sat erat satis habere noluit,
ego pausam feci. sic ago, sic me decet.
ego faxo posthac di deaeque ceteri
contentiores mage erunt atque avidi minus,
quom scibunt, Veneri ut adierit leno manum.
condigne haruspex, non homo trioboli,
omnibus in extis aibat portendi mihi
malum damnumque et deos esse iratos mihi.
quid ei divini aut humani aequomst credere?
mina mihi argenti dono postilla datast.
sed quaeso, ubi nam illic restitit miles modo,
qui hanc mihi donavit, quem ego vocavi ad prandium?
sed eccum incedit.

Antamonides
Ita ut occepi dicere,
lenulle, de illa pugna Pentetronica,
quom sexaginta milia hominum uno die
volaticorum manibus occidi meis.

Lyc.
Volaticorum hóminum?

Antam.
Ita dico quidem.

Lyc.
An, opsecro, usquam sunt homines volatici?

Antam.
Fuere. verum ego interfeci.

Lyc.
Quo modo
potuisti?

Antam.
Dicam. viscum legioni dedi
fundasque; eo praésternebant folia farferi.

Lyc.
Quoi rei?

Antam.
Ad fundas viscus né adhaeresceret.

Lyc.
Perge. optume hercle perieras. quid postea?

Antam.
In fundas visci indebant grandiculos globos,
eo illós volantis iussi funditarier.
quid multa verba? quemquem visco offenderant,
tam crebri ad terram áccidebant quam pira.
ut quisque acciderat, eum necabam ílico
per cerebrum pinna sua sibi, quasi turturem.

Lyc.
Si hercle istuc umquam factum est, tum me Iuppiter
faciat ut semper sacruficem nec umquám litem.

A.
An mi haec non credis?

L.
Credo, ut mi aequomst credier.
age eamus intro.

Lyc.
Dum exta referuntur, volo
narrare tibi etiam unam pugnam.

Lyc.
Nil moror.

A.
Ausculta.

L.
Non hercle auscultabo.

A.
Quo modo?
colaphis quidem hercle tuom iam dilidam caput,
nisi aut auscultas aut is in malam crucem.

Lyc.
Malam crucem ibo potius.

Antam.
Certumnest tibi?

Lyc.
Certum.

Antam.
Tum tu igitur die bonó Aphrodisiis
addice tuam mihi meretricem minusculam.

Lyc.
Ita res divina mihi fuit: res serias
omnis extollo ex hoc die in alium diem.

Antam.
Profestos festos habeam decretum est mihi.

Lyc.
Nunc hinc eamus intro. sequere hac me. —

Antam.
Seqor.
in hunc diem iam tuos sum mercennarius. —

ACT III.

Agorastocles
Íta me di ament, tardo amico nihil est quicquam inaequius,
praesertim homini amanti, qui quidquid agit properat omnia.
sicut ego hos duco advocatos, homines spissigradissimos,
tardiores quam corbitae sunt in tranquillo mari.
atque equidem hercle dedita opera amicos fugitavi senes:
scibam aetate tardiores, metui meo amori moram.
nequiquam hos procos mi elegi loripedis, tardissimos.
quin si ituri hodie estis, ite, aut ite hinc in malam crucem.
sicine oportet ire amicos homini amanti operam datum?
nam iste quidem gradus succretust cribro pollinario,
nisi cum pedicis condidicistis istoc grassari gradu.

Advocati
Heus tu, quamquam nos videmur tibi plebeii et pauperes,
si nec recte dicis nobis, dives de summo loco,
divitem audacter solemus mactare infortunio.
nec tibi nos obnoxii sumus istuc, quid tu ames aut oderis:
quom argentum pro capite dedimus, nostrum dedimus, non tuom;
liberos nos esse oportet. nos te nihili pendimus,
ne tuo nos amori servos tuos esse addictos censeas.
liberos homines per urbem modico magis par est gradu
ire, servile esse duco festinantem currere.
praesertim in re populi placida atque interfectis hostibus
non decet tumultuari. sed si properabas magis,
pridie nos te advocatos huc duxisse oportuit.
ne tu opinere, haud quisquam hodie nostrum curret per vias,
neque nos populus pro cerritis insectabit lapidibus.

Agor.
At si ad prandium me in aedem vos dixissem ducere,
vinceretis cervom cursu vel gralatorem gradu;
nunc vos quia mihi advocatos dixi et testis ducere,
podagrosi estis ac vicistis cochleam tarditudine.

Adv.

An vero non iusta causa est, quor curratur celeriter
ubi bibas, edas de alieno quantum velis usque ad fatim,
quod tu invitus numquam reddas domino, de quoio ederis?
sed tamen cum eo cum quiqui, quamquam sumus pauperculi,
est domi quod edimus, ne nos tam contemptim conteras.
quidquid est pauxillulum illuc, nostrum id omne, non tuomst,
neque nos quemquam flagitamus neque nos quisquam flagitat.
tua causa nemo nostrorumst suos rupturus ramites.

Agor.
Nimis iracundi estis: equidem haec vobis dixi per iocum.

Adv.

Per iocum itidem dictum habeto quae nos tibi respondimus.

Agor.
Obsecro hercle, operam celocem hanc mihi, ne corbitam date;
attrepidate saltem, nam vos adproperare haud postulo.

Adv.

Si quid tu placide otioseque agere vis, operam damus;
si properas, cursores meliust te advocatos ducere.

Agor.
Scitis rem, narravi vobis quod vestra opera mi opus siet,
de lenone hoc, qui me amantem ludificatur tam diu,
ei paratae ut sint insidiae de auro et de servo meo.

Adv.

Omnia istaec scimus iam nos, si hi spectatores sciant;
horunc hic nunc causa haec agitur spectatorum fabula:
hos te satius est docere, ut, quando agas, quid agas sciant.
nos tu ne curassis: scimus rem omnem, quippe omnes simul

didicimus tecum una, ut respondere possemus tibi.

Agor.
Ita profecto est. sed agite igitur, ut sciam vos scire rem,
expedite et mihi quae vobis dudum dixi dicite.

Adv.

Itane? temptas an sciamus? non meminisse nos ratu's,
quo modo trecentos Philippos Collybisco vilico
dederis, quos deferret huc ad lenonem inimicum tuom,
isque sé ut assimularet peregrinum esse aliunde ex alio oppido?
ubi is detulerit, tu eo quaesitum servom advenies tuom
cum pecunia.

Agor.
Meministis memoriter, servastis me.

Adv.

Ille negabit: Milphionem quaeri censebit tuom;
id duplicabit omne furtum. leno addicetur tibi.
ad eam rem nos esse testis vis tibi.

Agor.
Tenetis rem.

Adv.

Vix quidem hercle, íta pauxilla est, digitulis primoribus.

Agor.
Hoc cito et cursim est agendum. propera iam quantum potest.

Adv.

Bene vale igitur. te advocatos meliust celeris ducere;
tardi sumus nos.

Agor.
Optime itis, pessime hercle dicitis.
quin etiam deciderint vobis femina ín talos velim.

Adv.

At edepol nos tibi in lumbos linguam atque oculos in solum.

Agor.
Heia, hau vostrumst iracundos esse, quod dixi ioco.

Adv.

Nec tuom quidem est amicis per iocum iniuste loqui.

Agor.
Mittite istaec. quid velim vos, scitis.

Adv.

Callemus probe:
lenonem ut periurum perdas, id studes.

Agor.
Tenetis rem.
euge, opportune egrediuntur Milphio una et vilicus.
basilice exornatus incedit et fabre ad fallaciam.

Milphio
Iam tenes praecepta in corde?

Collybiscvs

Pulchre.
Mil.
Vide sis calleas.

Coll.
Quid opust verbis? callum aprugnum callere aeque non sinam.

Mil.
Fac modo ut condocta tibi sint dicta ad hanc fallaciam.

Coll.
Quin edepol condoctior sum, quam tragoedi aut comici.

Mil.
Probus homost.

Agor.
Adeamus propius.

Mil.
Adsunt testes?

Agor.
Tot quidem.

Mil.
Non potuisti adducere homines magis ad hanc rem idoneos.
nam istorum nullus nefastust: comitiales sunt meri;
ibi habitant, ibi eos conspicias quam praetorem saepius.
hodie iuris coctiores non sunt qui lites creant,
quam hi sunt, qui si nihil est quicum litigent, lites emunt.

Adv.

Di te perdant.

M.
Vos quidem hercle — cum eo cum quiqui tamen
et bene et benigne facitis, quóm ero amanti operam datis.
sed isti iam sciunt, negoti quid sit?

Agor.
Omne in ordine.

Mil.

Tum vos animum advortite igitur. hunc vos lenonem Lycum
15 novistis?

Adv.

Facile.

Coll.
At pol ego eum, qua sit facie, nescio.
eum mihi volo demonstretis hominem.

Adv.

Nos curabimus.
satis praeceptumst.

Agor.
Hic trecentos nummos numeratos habet.

Adv.

Ergo nos inspicere oportet istuc aurum, Agorastocles,
ut sciamus quid dicamus mox pro testimonio.

Coll.
20 Agite, inspicite.

Adv.

Aurum est profecto hoc, spectatores, comicum:
macerato hoc pingues fiunt auro in barbaria boves;
verum ad hanc rem agundam Philippum est: ita nos adsimulabimus.

Coll.
Sed ita adsimulatote quasi ego sim peregrinus.

Adv.

Scilicet,

et quidem quasi tu nobiscum adveniens hodie oraveris,
liberum ut commostraremus tibi locum et voluptarium,
ubi ames, potes, pergraecere.

Coll.
Eu, edepol mortales malos.

Agor.
Ego enim docui.

Mil.
Quis te porro?

Coll.
Agite intro abite, Agorastocles,
ne hic vos mecum conspicetur leno neu fallaciae
praepedimentum obiciatur.

Adv.

Hic homo sapienter sapit.
facite quod iubet.

Agor.
Abeamus. sed vos —

Adv.

Satis dictumst. abi.

Agor.
Abeo.

Adv.

Quaeso, di immortales, quin abis?

Agor.
Abeo. —

Adv.

Sapis.

Coll.
St,
tace.

Adv.

Quid est?

Coll.
Fores haé fecerunt magnum flagitium modo.

Adv.

Quid id est flagiti?

Coll.
Crepuerunt clare.

Adv.

Di te perduint.
pone nos recede.

Coll.
Fiat.

Adv.

Nos priores ibimus.

Coll.
Faciunt scurrae quod consuerunt: pone sese homines locant.

Adv.

Illic homo est, qui egreditur, leno.

C.
Bonus est, nam similis malist.
iam nunc ego illi égredienti sanguinem exsugam procul.

Lycvs
Iam ego istúc revortar, miles: convivas volo
reperire nobis commodos, qui una sient;
interibi attulerint exta, atque eádem mulieres
iam ab re divina credo apparebunt domi.
sed quid huc tantum hominum incedunt? ecquidnam adferunt?
et illé chlamydatus quisnam est, qui sequitur procul?

Adv.

Aetoli cives te salutamus, Lyce,
quamquam hanc salutem ferimus inviti tibi.

Lyc.
Fortunati omnes sitis, quod certo scio
nec fore nec fortunam id situram fieri.

Adv.

Isticést thensaurus stultis in lingua situs,
ut quaestui habeant male loqui melioribus.

Lyc.
Viam qui nescit, qua deveniat ad mare,
eum oportet amnem quaerere comitem sibi.
ego male loquendi vobis nescivi viam:
nunc vos mihi amnes estis; vos certum est sequi:
si bene dicetis, vostra ripa vos sequar,
si male dicetis, vostro gradiar limite.

Adv.

Malo bene facere tantundemst periculum
quantum bono male facere.

Lyc.
Qui vero?

Adv.

Scies.
malo si quid bene facias, id beneficium interit;
bono si quid male facias, aetatem expetit.

Lyc.
Facete dictum. sed quid istúc ad me attinet?

Adv.

Quia nos honoris tui causa ad te venimus,
quamquam bene volumus leniter lenonibus.

Lyc.
Si quid boni adportatis, habeo gratiam.

Adv.

Boni de nostro tibi nec ferimus nec damus
neque pollicemur, neque adeo volumus datum.

Lyc.
Credo hercle vobis: ita vestra est benignitas.
sed quid nunc voltis?

Adv.

Hunc chlamydatum quem vides,
ei Mars iratust.

Coll.
Capiti vestro istuc quidem.

Adv.

Nunc hunc, Lyce, ad te diripiundum adducimus.

Coll.
Cum praeda hic hodie incedet venator domum:
canes compellunt in plagas lepide lupum.

Lyc.
Quis hic est?

Adv.

Nescimus nos quidem istum qui siet;
nisi dudum mane ut ad portum processimus,
atque istum e navi éxeuntem oneraria
videmus. adiit ad nos extemplo exiens;
salutat, respondemus.

Coll.
Mortalis malos,
ut ingrediuntur docte in sycophantiam.

Lyc.
Quid deinde?

Adv.

Sermonem ibi nobiscum copulat.
ait sé peregrinum esse huius ignarum oppidi;
locum sibi velle liberum praeberier,
ubi nequam faciat. nos hominem ad te adduximus.
tu si te di amant, agere tuam rem occasiost.

Lyc.
Itane?

Adv.

Ille est cupiens, aurum habet.

Lyc.
Praeda haec meast.

Adv.

Potare, amare volt.

Lyc.
Locum lepidum dabo.

Adv.

At enim hic clam furtim ésse volt, ne quis sciat
neve arbiter sit. nam hic latro in Sparta fuit,
ut quidem ipse nobis dixit, apud regem Attalum;
inde huc aufugit, quoniam capitur oppidum.

Coll.
Nimis lépide de latrone, de Sparta optume.

Lyc.
Di deaeque vobis multa bona dent, quom mihi
et bene praecipitis et bonam praedam datis.

Adv.

Immo ut ipse nobis dixit, quo accures magis,
trecentos nummos Philippos portat praesidi.

Lyc.
Rex sum, si ego illum hodie ad me hominem adlexero.

Adv.

Quin hic quidem tuos est.

Lyc.

Opsecro hercle hortamini,
ut devortatur ad me in hospitium optumum.

Adv.

Neque nos hortari neque dehortari decet
hominem peregrinum: tuam rem tú ages, si sapis.
nos tibi palumbem ad aream usque adduximus:
nunc te illum meliust capere, si captum esse vis.

Coll.
Iamne itis? quid quod vobis mandavi, hospites?

Adv.

Cum illoc te meliust tuam rem, ádulescens, loqui:
illic ést ad istas res probus, quas quaeritas.

Coll.
Videre equidem vos vellem, quom huic aurum darem.

Adv.

Illinc procul nos istuc inspectabimus.

Coll.
Bonam dedistis mihi operam.

Lyc.
It ad me lucrum.

Coll.
Illud quidem quorsum asinus caedit calcibus.

Lyc.
Blande hominem compellabo. hóspes hospitem
salutat. salvom te advenire gaudeo.

Coll.

Multa tibi di dent bona, quom me salvom esse vis.

Lyc.
Hospitium te aiunt quaeritare.

Coll.
Quaerito.

Lyc.
Ita illí dixerunt, qui hinc a me abierunt modo,
te quaeritare a muscis.

Coll.
Minime gentium.

Lyc.
Quid itá?

Coll.
Quia a muscis si mi hospitium quaererem,
adveniens irem in carcerem recta via.
ego id quaero hospitium, ubi ego curer mollius,
quam regi Antiocho óculi curari solent.

Lyc.
Edepol ne tibi illud possum festivom dare,
siquidém potes ésse te pati in lepido loco,
in lecto lepide strato lepidam mulierem
complexum contrectare.

Coll.
Is, leno, viam.

Lyc.
Vbi tu Leucadio, Lesbio, Thasio, Chio,
vetustáte vino edentulo aetatem inriges;
ibi ego te replebo usque unguentum geumatis,
quid multa verba? faciam, ubi tu laveris,

ibi ut bálneator faciat unguentariam.
sed haec latrocinantur, quae ego dixi, omnia.

Coll.
Quid itá?

Lyc.
Quia aurum poscunt praesentarium.

Coll.
Quin hercle accipere tu non mavis quam ego dare.

Adv.

Quid si evocemus huc foras Agorastoclem,
ut ipsus testis sit sibi certissumus?
heus tu, qui furem captas, egredere ocius,
ut tute inspectes aurum lenoni dari.

Agorastocles
Quid est? quid voltis, testes?

Adv.

Specta ad dexteram.
tuos sérvos aurum ípsi lenoni dabit.

Coll.
Age, accipe hoc sis: hic sunt numerati aurei
trecenti nummi, qui vocantur Philippei.
hinc me procura; propere hosce apsumi volo.

Lyc.
Edepol fecisti prodigum promum tibi.
age, eamus intro.

Coll.
Te sequor.

Lyc.
Age, age, ambula,
ibí, quae reliqua, alia fabulabimur.

Coll.
Eadém narrabo tibi res Spartiaticas.

L.
Quin sequere me ergo. —

C.
Abduc intro. addictum tenes. —

Agor.
Quid nunc mi auctores estis?

Adv.

Vt frugi sies.

Agor.
Quid si animus esse non sinit?

Adv.

Esto ut sinit.

Agor.
Vidistis, leno quom aurum accepit?

Adv.

Vidimus.

Agor.
Eum vos meum esse servom scitis?

Adv.

Scivimus.

Agor.
Rem adversus populi saepe leges?

Adv.

Scivimus.

Agor.
Em istaec volo ergo vos commeminisse omnia,
mox quom ad praetorem úsus veniet.

Adv.

Meminimus.

Agor.
Quid si recenti re aedis pultem?

Adv.

Censeo.

Agor.
Si pultem, non recludet?

Adv.

Panem frangito.

Agor.
Si exierit leno, quid tum? hominem interrogem,
meus sérvos ad eum veneritne?

Adv.

Quippini?

Agor.
Cum auri ducentis nummis Philippis?

Adv.

Quippini?

Ag.

Ibi extémplo leno errabit.

Ad.

Qua de re?

Ag.

Rogas?
quia centum nummis minus dicetur.

Adv.

Bene putas.

Agor.
Alium censebit quaeritari.

Adv.

Scilicet.

Agor.
Extemplo denegabit.

Adv.

Iuratus quidem.

Ag.

Homo fúrti sese adstringet.

Ad.

Hau dubium id quidemst.

Agor.
Quantum quantum ad eum erit delatum.

Adv.

Quippini?

Agor.
Diespiter vos perduit.

Adv.

Te quippini?

Agor.
Ibo et pultabo ianuam iam.

Adv.

Quippini?

Agor.
Tacendi tempus est, nam crepuerunt fores.
foras égrediri video lenonem Lycum.
adeste quaeso.

Adv.

Quippini? † si voles
operire capita, ne nos leno noverit,
qui illi malae rei tantae fuimus inlices.

Lycvs

Suspendant omnes nunciam se haruspices,
quam ego illis posthac quod loquantur creduam,
qui in re divina dudum dicebant mihi
malum damnumque maximum portendier:
is explicavi meam rem postilla lucro.

Agor.
Salvos sis, leno.

Lyc.
Di te ament, Agorastocles.

Agor.
Magis mé benigne nunc salutas quam antidhac.

Lyc.
Tranquillitas evenit, quasi navi in mari:
utquomque est ventus, exim velum vortitur.

Agor.
Valeant apud te quos volo; atque haud te volo.

Lyc.
Valent ut postulatumst, verum non tibi.

Agor.
Mitte ad me, si audes, hodie Adelphasium tuam,
die fésto celebri nobilique Aphrodisiis.

Lyc.
Calidum prandisti prandium hodie? dic mihi.

Agor.
Quid iam?

Lyc.
Quia os nunc frigefactas, quom rogas.

Agor.
Hoc age sis, leno. servom esse audivi meum
apud te.

Lyc.
Apud me? numquam factum reperies.

Agor.
Mentire. nam ad te venit aurumque attulit.
ita mihi renuntiatumst, quibus credo satis.

Lyc.
Malus es, captatum me advenis cum testibus.
tuorum apud me nemost nec quicquam tui.

Agor.
Mementote illud, advocati.

Adv.

Meminimus.

Lyc.
Hahahae, iam teneo quid sit, perspexi modo.
hi qui illum dudum conciliaverunt mihi
peregrinum Spartanum, id nunc his cerebrum uritur,
me esse hos trecentos Philippos facturum lucri.
nunc hunc inimicum quía esse sciverunt mihi,
eum adlegarunt, suom qui servom diceret
cum auro esse apud me; compositast fallacia,
ut eo me privent atque inter se dividant.
lupo agnum eripere postulant. nugas agunt.

Agor.
Negasne apud te esse aurum, nec servom meum?

Lyc.
Nego: et negando, si quid refert, ravio.

Adv.

Periisti, leno. nam istest huius vilicus
quem tibi nos esse Spartiatam diximus,
qui ad te trecentos Philippeos modo detulit.
idque in istoc adeo aúrum inest marsuppio.

Lyc.
Vae vostrae aetati.

Adv.

Id quidem in mundo est tuae.

Agor.
Age omitte actutum, furcifer, marsuppium:
manifesto fur es mihi. quaeso hercle, operam date,
dum me videatis servom ab hoc abducere. —

Lyc.
Nunc pol ego perii certo, haud arbitrario.
consulto hoc factum est, mihi ut insidiae fierent.
sed quid ego dubito fugere hinc in malam crucem,
prius quam hínc optorto collo ad praetorem trahor?
eheu, quom ego habui háriolos haruspices;
qui si quid bene promittunt, perspisso evenit,
id quod mali promittunt, praesentarium est.
nunc ibo, amicos consulam, quo me modo
suspendere aequom censeant potissimum. —

Agorastocles
Age tu progredere, ut testes videant te ire istinc foras.
estne hic meus servos?

Collybiscvs
Sum hercle vero, Agorastocles.

Agor.

Quid nunc, sceleste leno?

Adv.

Quicum litigas
apscessit.

Agor.
Vtinam hinc abierit malam crucem.

Adv.

Ita nos velle aequom est.

Agor.
Cras subscribam homini dicam.

Coll.
Numquid me?

Agor.
Apscedas, sumas ornatum tuom.

Coll.
Non sum nequiquam miles factus; paulum
praedae intus feci: dum lenonis familia
dormitat, extis sum satur factus probe.
abscedam hinc intro. —

Agor.
Factum a vobis comiter.
bonam dedistis, advocati, operam mihi.
cras mane, quaeso, in comitio estote obviam.
tu sequere me intro. vos valete. —

Adv.

Et tu vale.
iniuriam illic insignite postulat:

nostro servire nos sibi censet cibo.
verum ita sunt ... isti nostri divites:
si quid bene facias, levior pluma est gratia,
si quid peccatumst, plumbeas iras gerunt.
domos abeamus nostras, sultis, nunciam,
quando id, quoi rei operam dedimus, impetravimus,
ut perderemus corruptorem civium. —

ACT IV.

Milphio
Exspécto quo pactó meae techinaé processuraé sient.
studeo hunc lenonem perdere, qui meum erum miserum macerat,
is me autem porro verberat, incursat pugnis, calcibus:
servire amanti miseria est, praesertim qui quod amat caret.
attat, e fano recipere video se Syncerastum,
lenonis servom; quid habeat sermonis auscultabo.

Syncerastvs
Sátis spectatum est, deos atque homines eius neglegere gratiam,
quoí hominí erus est consimilis velut ego habeo hunc huius modi.
neque periurior neque peior alter usquam est gentium,
quám erus meus est, neque tam luteus neque tam caeno conlitus.
ita me di ament, vel in lautumiis vel in pistrino mavelim
agere aetatem praepeditus latere forti ferreo,
quam ápud lenonem hunc servitutem colere. quid illuc est genus,
quae illic hominum corruptelae fiunt. di vostram fidem,
quodvis genus ibi hominum videas, quasi Acheruntem veneris,
equitem peditem, libertinum, furem an fugitivom velis,
verberatum, vinctum, addictum: quí habet quod det, utut homo est,
omnia genera recipiuntur; itaque in totis aedibus
tenebrae latebrae, bibitur estur quasi in popina, hau secus.
ibi tu videas litteratas fictiles epistulas,
pice signatas, nomina insunt cubitum longis litteris:
ita vinariorum habemus nostrae dilectum domi.

Mil.
Omnia edepol mira sunt, nisi erus hunc heredem facit,
nam id quidem, illi, uti meditatur, verba faciet mortuo.
et adire lubet hominem et autem nimis eum ausculto lubens.

Sync.
Haec quom hic video fieri, crucior: pretiis emptos maxumis,
apud nos expeculiatos servos fieri suis eris.

sed ad postremum nihil apparet: male partum male disperit.

Mil.
Proinde habet orationem, quasi ipse sit frugi bonae,
qui ipsus hercle ignaviorem potis est facere Ignaviam.

Sync.
Nunc domum haec ab aede Veneris refero vasa, ubi hostiis
erus nequivit propitiare Venerem suo festo die.

Mil.
Lepidam Venerem.

Sync.
Nam meretrices nostrae primis hostiis
Venerem placavere extemplo.

Mil.
O lepidam Venerem denuo.

Sync.
Nunc domum ibo.

Mil.
Heus, Synceraste.

Sync.
Syncerastum qui vocat?

M.
Tuos amicus.

S.
Haud amice facis, qui cum onere offers moram.

Mil.
At ob hanc moram tibi reddam operam úbi voles, ubi iusseris.
habe rem pactam.

S.
Si futurumst, do tibi operam hanc.

M.
Quo modo?

Sync.
Vt enim ubi mihi vapulandum sit, tu corium sufferas.
apage, nesció quid viri sis.

Mil.
Malus sum.

Sync.
Tibi sis.

Mil.
Te volo.

Sync.
At onus urget.

Mil.
At tu appone et respice ad me.

Sync.
Fecero,
quamquam haud otiumst.

Mil.
Salvos sis, Synceraste.

Sync.
O Milphio,
di omnes deaeque ament.

Mil.
Quemnam hominem?

Sync.
Nec te nec me, Milphio:
neque erum meum ádeo.

Mil.
Quém ament igitur?

Sync.
Aliquem, dignus qui siet.
nam nostrorum nemo dignust.

Mil.
Lepide loquere.

Sync.
Me decet.

Mil.
Quid agis?

Sync.
Facio quod manufesti moechi haú ferme solent.

Mil.
Quid id est?

Sync.
Refero vasa salva.

Mil.
Di te et tuom erum perduint.

Sync.
Me non perdent; illum ut perdant facere possum, si velim,
meum erum ut perdant, ni mihi metuam, Milphio.

Mil.
Quid id est? cedo.

Sync.
Malus es?

Mil.
Malus sum.

Sync.
Male mihi est.

Mil.
Memora, num esse aliter decet?
quid est, quod male sit tibi, quoi domi sit quod edis quod ames adfatim,
neque triobolum ullum amicae das et ductas gratiis?

Sync.
Diespiter me sic amabit,

Mil.
Vt quidem edepol dignus es.

Sync.
Vt ego hanc familiam interire cupio.

Mil.
Adde operam, si cupis.

Sync.
Sine pennis volare hau facilest: meae alae pennas non habent.

Mil.
Nolito edepol devellisse: iam his duobus mensibus
volucres tibi erunt tuae hirquinae.

S.
I in malam rem.

M.

I tu atque erus.

Sync.
Verum. enim qui hómo eum norit, norit. cito homo pervorti potest.

Mil.
Quid iam?

Sync.
Quasi tu tacitum habere quicquam potis sis.

Mil.

Rectius
tacitas tibi res sistam quam quod dictum est mutae mulieri.

Sync.
Animum inducam facile ut tibi istuc credam, ni te noverim.

Mil.
Crede audacter meo periclo.

Sync.
Male credam, et credam tamen.

Mil.
Scin tu erum tuom meo ero esse inimicum capitalem?

Sync.
Scio.

Mil.
Propter amorem —

Sync.
Omnem operam perdis.

Mil.
Quid iam?

Sync.
Quia doctum doces.

Mil.
Quid ergo dubitas quin lubenter tuo ero meus quid possiet
facere faciat male, eius merito? tum autem si quid tu adiuvas,
eo facilius facere poterit.

Sync.
At ego hoc metuo, Milphio.

M.
Quid est quod metuas?

S.
Dúm ero insidias paritem, ne me perduim.
si erus meus me esse elocutum quoiquam mortali sciat,
continuo is me ex Syncerasto Crurifragium fecerit.

Mil.
Numquam edepol mortalis quisquam fiet e me certior,
nisi ero meo uni indicasso, atque ei quoque ut ne enuntiet
id esse facinus ex ted ortum.

Sync.
Male credam, et credam tamen.
sed hoc tu tecum tacitum habeto.

Mil.
Fide non melius creditur.
loquere (locus occasioque est) libere: hic soli sumus.

Sy.
Erus si tuos volt facere frugem, meum erum perdet.

Mi.
Qui id potest?

Sync.
Facile.

Mil.
Fac ergo id facile noscam ego, ut ille possit noscere.

S.
Quia Adelphasium, quám erus deamat tuos, ingenuast.

M.
Quo modo?

Sync.
Eodem quo soror illius altera Anterastilis.

Mil.
Cedo qui id credam.

Sync.
Quia illas emit in Anactorio parvolas
de praedone Siculo.

Mil.
Quanti?

Sync.
Duodeviginti minis,
duas illas et Giddenenem nutricem earum tertiam.
et ille qui eas vendebat dixit se furtivas vendere:
ingenuas Carthagine aibat esse.

Mil.
Di vostram fidem,
nimium lepidum memoras facinus. nam erus meus Agorastocles
ibidem gnatust, inde surptus fere sexennis, postibi
qui eum surrupuit huc devexit meoque ero eum hic vendidit.
is in divitias homo adoptavit hunc, quom diem obiit suom.

Sync.
Omnia memoras quo id facilius fiat: manu eas adserat
suas popularis liberali causa.

Mil.
Tacitus tace modo.

Sync.
Profecto ad incitas lenonem rediget, si eas abduxerit.

Mil.
Quin prius disperibit faxo, quam unam calcem civerit.
ita paratumst.

Sync.
Ita di faxint, ne apud lenonem hunc serviam.

Mil.
Hercle qui meus conlibertus faxo eris, si di volent.

Sync.
Ita di faxint. numquid aliud me morare, Milphio?

Mil.
Valeas beneque ut tibi sit.

Sync.
Pol istuc tibi et tuost ero in manu.
vale et haec cura clanculum ut sint dicta.

Mil.
Non dictumst. vale.

S.
At enim nihil est, nisi dum calet hoc agitur.

M.
Lepidu's, quom mones.

et ita hoc fiet.

Sync.
Proba materies data est, si probum adhibes fabrum.

Mil.
Potin ut taceas?

Sync.
Taceo atque abeo. —

Mil.
Mihi commoditatem creas.
illic hinc abiit. di immortales meum erum servatum volunt
et hunc disperditum lenonem: tantum eum instat exiti.
satine prius quam unumst iniectum telum, iam instat alterum?
ibo intro, haec ut meo ero memorem. nam huc si ante aedes evocem,
quae audivistis modo, nunc si eadem híc iterum iterem, inscitiast.
ero uni potius intus ero odio, quam hic sim vobis omnibus. —
di immortales, quanta turba, quanta adventat calamitas
hodie ad hunc lenonem. sed ego nunc est cum me commoror.
ita negotium institutumst, non datur cessatio;
nám et hoc docte consulendum, quod modo concreditumst,
et illud autem inserviendumst consilium vernaculum.
remora si sit, qui malam rem mihi det merito fecerit.
nunc intro ibo: dum erus adveniat a foro, opperiar domi. —

ACT V.

Hanno

Yth alonim ualonuth sicorathi symacom syth
chy mlachthi in ythmum ysthyalm ych-ibarcu mysehi
li pho caneth yth bynuthi uad edin byn ui
bymarob syllohom alonim ubymysyrthohom
byth limmoth ynnocho thuulech-antidamas chon
ys sidobrim chi fel yth chyl is chon chen liful
yth binim ys dybur ch-innocho-tnu agorastocles
yth emanethi hy chirs aelichot sithi nasot
bynu yid ch-illuch ily gubulim lasibithim
bodi aly thera ynnynu yslym min cho-th iusim
Ythalonimualoniuthsicorathiisthymhimihymacomsyth
combaepumamitalmetlotiambeat
iulecantheconaalonimbalumbar dechor
bats ... hunesobinesubicsillimbalim
esseantidamossonalemuedubertefet
donobun.huneccilthumucommucroluful
altanimauosduberithemhuarcharistolem
sittesedanecnasotersahelicot
alemusdubertimurmucopsuistiti
aoccaaneclictorbodesiussilimlimmimcolus

deos deasque veneror, qui hanc urbem colunt,
ut quod de mea re huc veni rite venerim,
measque híc ut gnatas et mei fratris filium
reperire me siritis, di vostram fidem.
quae mihi surruptae sunt et fratris filium.
sed hic mihi antehac hospes Antidamas fuit;
eum fécisse aiunt, sibi quod faciundum fuit.
eius fílium esse hic praedicant Agorastoclem:
ad eum hospitalem hanc tesseram mecum fero;
is in hisce habitare monstratust regionibus.
hos percontabor qui hinc egrediuntur foras.

Agorastocles

Ain tú tibi dixe Syncerastum, Milphio,
eas ésse ingenuas ambas surrupticias
Charthaginiensis?

Milphio
Aio, et, si frugi esse vis,
eas líberali iam adseres causa manu.
nam tuom flagitiumst tuas te popularis pati
servire ante oculos, domi quae fuerint liberae.

Han.
Pro di immortales, opsecro vostram fidem,
quam orationem hanc aures dulcem devorant.
creta est profecto hórum hominum oratio,
ut mi apsterserunt omnem sorditudinem.

Agor.
Si ad eam rem testis habeam, faciam quod iubes.

Mil.
Quid tu mihi testis? quin tu insistis fortiter?
aliqua Fortuna fuerit adiutrix tibi.

Agor.
Incipere multost quam impetrare facilius.

Mil.
Sed quae illaec avis est, quae huc cum tunicis advenit?
numnam in balineis circumductust pallio?

Agor.
Facies quidem edepol Punicast.

Mil.
Guggast homo.
servos quidem edepol veteres antiquosque habet.

Agor.

Qui scis?

Mil.
Viden homines sarcinatos consequi?
† atque ut opinor digitos in manibus non habent.

Agor.
Quid iam?

Mil.
Quia incedunt cum anulatis auribus.

Han.
Adibo hosce atque áppellabo Punice.
si respondebunt, Punice pergam loqui;
si non, tum ad horum mores linguam vertero.

Mil.
Quid ais tu? écquid commeministi Punice?

Agor.
Nihil edepol. nam qui scire potui, dic mihi,
qui illim sexennis perierim Carthagine?

Han.
Pro di immortales, plurumi ad illum modum
periere pueri liberi Carthagine.

Mil.
Quid ais tu?

Agor.
Quid vis?

Mil.
Vin appellem hunc Punice?

Agor.

An scis?

Mil.
Nullus me est hodie Poenus Poenior.

Agor.
Adi atque appella, quid velit, quid venerit,
qui sit, quoiatis, unde sit: ne parseris.

Mil.
Avo. quoiates estis aut quo ex oppido?

Han.
Anno byn mytthymballe udradait annech.

Agor.
Quid ait?

Mil.
Hannonem se esse ait Carthagine,
Carthaginiensis Mytthumbalis filium.

Han.
Avo.

Mil.
Salutat.

Han.
Donni.

Mil.
Doni volt tibi
dare hic nescio quid. audin pollicitarier?

Agor.
Saluta hunc rursus Punice verbis meis.

Mil.

Avo donni inquit hic tibi verbis suis.

Han.
Me har bocca.

Mil.
Istuc tibi sit potius quam mihi.

Agor.
Quid ait?

Mil.
Miseram esse praedicat buccam sibi.
fortasse medicos nos esse arbitrarier.

Agor.
Si ita est, nega esse; nolo ego errare hospitem.

Mil.
Audin tu?

Han.
Rufeyn nyccho issam.

Agor.
Sic volo
profecto vera cuncta huic expedirier.
roga númquid opus sit.

Mil.
Tu qui zonam non habes,
quid in hanc venistis urbem aút quid quaeritis?

H.
Muphursa.

A.
Quid ait?

H.
Miuulec hianna.

A.
Quid venit?

Mil.
Non audis? mures Africanos praedicat
in pompam ludis dare se velle aedilibus.

Han.
Lech lachanna nilimniichto.

Agor.
Quid nunc ait?

Mil.
Ligulas, canalis ait se advexisse et nuces:
nunc orat, operam ut des sibi, ut ea veneant.

Agor.
Mercator credo est.

Han.
Assam.

Mil.
Arvinam quidem.

Han.
Palu mirga detha.

Agor.
Milphio, quid nunc ait?

Mil.
Palas vendundas sibi ait et mergas datas,
ad messim credo, nisi quid tú aliud sapis.

ut hortum fodiat atque ut frumentum metat.

Agor.
Quid istuc ad me?

Mil.
Certiorem te esse volt,
ne quid clam furtim se accepisse censeas.

Han.
Mufonnim siccoratim.

Mil.
Hem, cave sis feceris
quod hic te órat.

Agor.
Quid ait aut quid orat? expedi.

Mil.
Sub cratim ut iubeas se supponi átque eo
lapides imponi multos, ut sese neces.

Han.
Gunebbal samem lyryla.

Agor.
Narra, quid est?
quid ait?

Mil.
Non hercle nunc quidem quicquam scio.

Hann.
At ut scias, nunc dehinc latine iam loquar.
servom hercle te esse oportet et nequam et malum,
hominem peregrinum atque advenam qui inrideas.

Mil.
At hercle te hominem et sycophantam et subdolum,
qui huc advenisti nos captatum, migdilix,
bisulci lingua quasi proserpens bestia.

Agor.
Maledicta hinc aufer, linguam compescas face.
maledicere huic tu temperabis, si sapis.
meis cónsanguineis nolo te iniuste loqui.
Carthagini ego sum gnatus, ut tu sis sciens.

Han.
O mi popularis, salve.

Agor.
Et tu edepol, quisquis es.
et si quid opus est, quaeso, dic atque impera
popularitatis causa.

Han.
Habeo gratiam.
verum ego hic hospitium hábeo: Antidamae filium
quaero (commostra si novisti) Agorastoclem.
sed ecquem ádulescentem tu hic novisti Agorastoclem?

Agor.
Siquidem Ántidamai quaeris ádoptaticium,
ego sum ipsus quem tu quaeris.

Han.
Hem, quid ego audio?

Agor.
Antidamae gnatum me esse.

Han.
Sí itast, tesseram
conferre si vis hospitalem, eccam attuli.

Agor.
Agedum huc ostende. est par probe, quam habeo domi.

Han.
O mi hospes, salve multum. nam mihi tuos pater
patritus † ergo hospes Antidamas fuit.
haec mi hospitalis tessera cum illo fuit.

Agor.
Ergo hic apud me hospitium tibi praebebitur.
nam haúd repudio hospitium neque Carthaginem,
unde súm oriundus.

Han.
Di dent tibi omnes quae velis.
quid ais? qui potuit fieri, ut Carthagini
gnatus sis? hic autem habuisti Aetolum patrem.

Agor.
Surruptus sum illinc. hic me Antidama hospes tuos
emit, et is me sibi adoptavit filium.

Han.
Demarcho item ipse fuit adoptaticius.
sed mitto de illoc, ad te redeo. dic mihi,
ecquid meministi tuom parentum nomina,
patris atque matris?

Agor.
Memini.

Han.
Memoradum mihi,
si novi forte aut si sunt cognati mihi.

Agor.
Ampsigura mater mihi fuit, Iahon pater.

Han.
Patrem atque matrem viverent vellem tibi.

Agor.
An mortui sunt?

Han.
Factum, quod aegre tuli. †
nam mihi sobrina Ampsigura tua mater fuit;
pater tuos, is erat frater patruelis meus,
et is me heredem fecit, quom suom obiit diem,
quo me privatum aégre patior mortuo.
sed sí ita est, ut tu sis Iahonis filius,
signum esse oportet in manu laeva tibi,
ludenti puero quod memordit simia.
ostende, inspiciam.

Agor.
Em ostendo.

Han.
Aperi. audi atque ades:

...

Agor.
Mi patrue, salve.

Han.
Ét tu salve, Agorastocles.
iterum mihi gnatus videor, quom te repperi.

Mil.
Pol istám rem vobis bene evenisse gaudeo.
sed te moneri num nevis?

Han.
Sane volo.

Mil.
Paterna oportet filio reddi bona.
aequomst habere hunc bona quae possedit pater.

Han.
Haud postulo aliter: restituentur omnia;
suam síbi rem salvam sistam, si illo advenerit.

Mil.
Facito sis reddas, etsi hic habitabit, tamen.

Han.
Quin mea quoque iste habebit, si quid me fuat.

Mil.
Festivom facinus venit mi in mentem modo.

Han.
Quid id est?

Mil.
Tua opus est opera.

Han.
Dic mihi quid lubet:
profecto uteris, ut voles, operam meam.
quid est negoti?

Mil.
Potin tu fieri subdolus?

Han.
Inimico possum, amico ínsipientia est.

Mil.
Inimicus hercle est huius.

Han.

Male faxim lubens.

Mil.
Amat ab lenone hic.

Han.
Facere sapienter puto.

Mil.
Leno hic habitat vicinus.

Han.
Male faxim lubens.

Mil.
Ei duae puellae sunt meretrices servolae
sorores: earum hic alteram efflictim perit,
neque eam incestavit umquam.

Han.
Acerba amatiost.

Mil.
Hunc leno ludificatur.

Han.
Suom quaestum colit.

Mil.
Hic illi malam rem dare volt.

Han.
Frugist, si id facit.

Mil.
Nunc hoc consilium capio et hanc fabricam apparo,
ut te allegemus, filias dicas tuas
surruptasque esse parvolas Carthagine ...

manu líberali causa ámbas adseras,
quasi filiae tuae sint. iamne intellegis?

Han.
Intellego hercle. nam mihi item gnatae duae
cum nutrice una sunt surruptae parvolae.

Mil.
Lepide hercle adsimulas. iam in principio id mihi placet.

Han.
Pol magis quam vellem.

Mil.
Eu hércle mortalem catum,
... malum crudumque, estolidum et subdolum.
ut adflet, quo illud gestu faciat facilius.
me quoque dolis iam superat architectonem.

Han.
Sed earum nutrix qua sit facie, mi expedi.

Mil.
Statura hau magna, corpore aquilost.

Han.
Ipsa east.

Mil.
Specie venusta, óre atque oculis pernigris.

Han.
Formam quidem hercle verbis depinxti probe.

Mil.
Vin eam videre?

Han.

Filias malo meas.
sed i átque evoca illam; sí eae meae sunt filiae,
si illarum est nutrix, me continuo noverit.

Mil.
Heus, ecquis hic est? nuntiate ut prodeat
foras Gíddeneni. est qui illam conventam esse volt.

Giddenes
Quis pultat?

Mil.
Qui te proximust.

Gidd.

Quid vis?

Mil.
Eho,
novistin tu illunc tunicatum hominem qui siet?

Gidd.

Nam quém ego aspicio? pro supreme Iuppiter,
erus meus hic quidem est, mearum alumnarum pater,
Hanno Carthaginiensis.

Mil.
Ecce autem mala.
praestrigiator hic quidem Poenus probust,
perduxit omnis ad suam sententiam.

Gidd.

O mí ere, salve, Hánno, insperatissume
mihi tuisque filiis, salve atque — eho,
mirari noli neque me contemplarier.

cognoscin Giddenenem áncillam tuam?

Han.
Novi. sed ubi sunt meae gnatae? id scire expeto.

Gidd.

Apud aedem Veneris.

Han.
Quid ibi faciunt? dic mihi.

Gidd.

Aphrodisia hodie Veneris est festus dies:
oratum ierunt deam, ut sibi esset propitia.

Mil.
Pol satis scio, impetrarunt, quando hic hic adest.

Agor.
Eho an huius sunt illae filiae?

Gidd.

Ita ut praedicas.
tua pietas nobis plane aúxilio fuit,
quom huc advenisti hodie in ipso tempore;
namque hodie earum mutarentur nomina
facerentque indignum genere quaestum corpore.

Pver
Auamma illi.

Gidd.

Hauon bane silli in mustine.

Gidd.

Mepstaetemes tas dum et alanna cestimim.

Agor.
Quid illí locuti sunt inter se? dic mihi.

Han.
Matrem hic salutat suam, haec autem hunc filium.
tace atque parce muliebri supellectili.

Agor.
Quae east supellex?

Han.
Clarus clamor.

Agor.
Sine modo.

Han.
Tu abduc hosce intro; et una nutricem simul
iube hanc abire hinc ad te.

Agor.
Fac quod imperat.

Mil.
Sed quís illas tibi monstrabit?

Agor.
Ego doctissume.

Mil.
Abeo igitur.

Agor.
Facias modo quam memores mavelim.
patruo advenienti cena curetur volo.

Mil.

Lachanna vos, quos ego iam detrudam ad molas,
inde pórro ad puteum atque ad robustum codicem.
ego faxo hospitium hoc leniter laudabitis. —

Agor.
Audin tu, patrue? dico, ne dictum neges:
tuam míhi maiorem filiam despondeas.

Han.
Pactam rem habeto.

Agor.
Spondesne igitur?

Han.
Spondeo.

Agor.
Mi patrue, salve. nam nunc es plane meus.
nunc demum ego cum illa fabulabor libere.
nunc, patrue, si vis tuas videre filias,
me sequere.

Han.
Iamdudum equidem cupio, et te sequor.

Agor.
Quid si eámus illis obviam?

Han.
At ne intervias
praeterbitamus metuo. magne Iuppiter,
restitue certas mi ex incertis nunc opes.

Agor.
† Ego quidem meos amores mecum confido fore.
sed eccás video ipsas.

Han.
Haecine meae sunt filiae?
quantae e quantillis iam sunt factae.

Agor.
Scin quid est?
tragicae sunt: in calones sustolli solent.

Mil.
Opino hercle hodie, quod ego dixi per iocum,
id eventurum esse et severum et serium,
ut haec ínveniantur hodie esse huius filiae.

Agor.
Pol istúc quidem iam certum est. tu istos, Milphio,
abduce intro. nos hasce hic praestolabimur.

Adelphasivm
Fuit hódie operae pretiúm cuivis qui amábilitati animum adiceret,
oculís epulas dare, délubrum qui hodie órnatum eo visére venit.
deamávi ecastorílli hodie lepidíssima munera méretricum,
digná dea venustissimá Venere, neque cóntempsi eius opés hodie.
tanta íbi copia venustátum aderat, in suó quique loco síta munde.
arás tus, murrinus, ómnis odor
complébat. haud sordére visust
festús dies, Venus, nec tuóm fanum:
tantús ibi clientarum érat numerus,
quae ad Cálydoniam venérant Venerem.

Anterastilis
Certo enim, quod quidem ad nos duas
attínuit, praepotentés pulchre
pacísque potentes, sóror, fuimus,
neque ab iúventute inibi inrídiculo
habitaé, quod pol,
soror, céteris omnibus fáctumst.

Ad.

Malim ístuc aliis vídeatur, quam uti tú te, soror, conlaúdes.

Ant.
Spero équidem.

Ad.

Et pól ego, quom, íngeniis quibus súmus atque aliae, gnósco;
eo súmus gnatae genere, út deceat nos ésse a culpa cástas.

Han.
Iuppíter, qui genus colis álisque hominum, per quém vivimus vitálem aevom,
quem pénes spes vitae súnt hominum omniúm, da diem hunc sospítem quaeso,
† rebus meis agundis, ut quíbus annos multós carui quasque é patria perdidi parvas † redde is libertatem, invictae praemium ut esse sciam pietati.

Agor.
Omnía faciet Iuppíter faxo,
nam mi ést obnoxius ét me
metuít.

Han.
Tace quaeso.

Agor.
Ne lácruma, patrue.

Ant.
Vt vólup est homini, méa soror, si quód agit cluet victória;
sicút nos hodie intér alias praestítimus pulchritúdine.

Ad.

Stultá, soror, magis es quám volo. an tu éo pulchra videre, óbsecro,

si tíbi illi non os óblitumst fulígine?

Agor.
O pátrue, o patrue mí.

Han.
Quid est,
fratris mei gnate, gnate, quid vis? expedi.

Agor.
At enim hóc volo agas.

Han.
At enim ágo istuc.

Agor.
O pátrue mi patruíssime.

Han.
Quid est?

Agor.
Ést lepida et lauta. út sapit.

Han.
Ingénium patris habet quód sapit.

Ag.

Quae rés? iam diu édepol sápientiám tuam haéc quidem abusast.
nunc hínc sapit, hinc sentít, quidquid sapit, éx meo amore.

Ad.

Nón eo genere súmus prognatae, tam étsi sumus servaé, soror,
ut deceat nos facere quicquam quod homo quisquam inrideat.
multa mulierum sunt vitia, sed hoc e multis maxumumst,
quom sibi nimis placent minusque áddunt operam, uti placeant viris.

Ant.
Nimiae voluptatist quod in extis nostris portentumst, soror,
quodque haruspéx de ambabus dixit.

Agor.
Velim de me aliquid dixerit.

Ant.
Nos fore invíto domino nostro diebus paucis liberas.
id ego nisi quid di aut parentes faxint, qui sperem hau scio.

Agor.
Mea fiducia hercle haruspex, patrue, his promisit, scio,
libertatem, quia me amare hanc scit.

Ad.

Soror, sequere hac.

An.
Sequor.

Han.
Prius quam abitis, vos volo ambas. nisi piget, consistite.

Ad.

Quis revocat?

Ag.

Qui bene volt vobis facere.

Ad.

Facere occasiost.
sed quis homost?

Ag.

Amicus vobis.

Ad.

Qui quidem inimicus non siet.

Ag.

Bonus est hic homo, mea voluptas.

Ad.

Pol istum malim quam malum.

Agor.
Siquidem amicitiast habenda, cum hoc habendast.

Ad.

Hau precor.

Agor.
Multa bona volt vobis facere.

Ad.

Bonus bonis bene feceris.

Han.
Gaudio ero vobis.

Ad.

At edepol nos voluptati tibi.

Han.
Libertatique.

Ad.

Istoc pretio tuas nos facile feceris.

Agor.
Patrue mi, ita me di amabunt, ut ego, si sim Iuppiter,
iam hercle ego illam uxorem ducam et Iunonem extrudam foras.
ut pudice verba fecit, cogitate et commode,
ut modeste orationem praebuit.

Han.
Certo haec meast.
sed ut astú sum adgressus ad eas.

Agor.
Lepide hercle atque commode.

Han.
Pergo etiam temptare?

Agor.
In pauca confer: sitiunt qui sedent.

Han.
Quid istic? quod faciundumst cur non agimus? in ius vos voco.

Agor.
Nunc, pátrue, tu frugí bonae es. tené. vin ego hanc adpréndam?

Ad.

An patruos est, Agorastocles, tuos hic?

Agor.
Iam faxo scibis.
nunc pol ego te ulciscar probe, nam faxo — mea eris sponsa.

Han.
Ite in ius, ne moramini. antestare me atque duce.

Agor.

Ego te antestabor, postea hanc amabo atque amplexabor.
sed illúd quidem volui dícere — immo hercle díxi quod volebam.

Han.
Moramini. in ius vos voco, nisi honestiust prehendi.

Ad.

Quid in iús vocas nos? quid tibi debemus?

Agor.
Dicet illi.

Ad.

Etiam me meae latrant canes?

Agor.
At tu hercle adludiato:
dato mihi pro offa savium, pro ósse linguam obicito.
ita hanc canem faciam tibi oleo tranquilliorem.

Han.
Ite si ítis.

Ad.

Quid nos fecimus tibi?

Han.
Fures estis ambae.

Ad.

Nosne tíbi?

Han.
Vos inquam.

Agor.
Atque ego scio.

Ad.

Quid id fúrtist?

Agor.
Hunc rogato.

Han.
Quia annos multos filias meas célavistis clam me,
atque equidem ingenuas liberas summoque genere gnatas.

Ad.

Numquam mecastor reperies tu istuc probrum penes nos.

Agor.
Da pignus, ni nunc perieres, in savium, uter utri det.

Ad.

Nil tecum ago, apscede opsecro.

Ag.

Atque hércle mecum agendum est.
nam hic patruos meus est, pro hoc mihi patronus sim necesse est;
et praedicabo quo modo vos furta faciatis multa
quoque modo húius filias apud vós habeatis servas,
quas vos ex patria liberas surruptas esse scitis.

Ad.

Vbi sunt eae? aut quas, opsecro?

Ag.

Satis iám sunt maceratae.

H.
Quid si eloquamur?

Ag.

Censeo hercle, patrue.

Ad.

Misera timeo,
quid hoc sít negoti, mea soror; ita stupida sine animo asto.

Han.
Advortite animum, mulieres. primum, si id fieri possit,
ne indigna indignis di darent, id ego evenire vellem;
nunc quod boni mihi di danunt, vobis vostraeque matri,
eas dís est aequom gratias nos agere sempiternas,
quom nostram pietatem adprobant decorantque di immortales.
vos meae estis ambae filiae et hic ést cognatus vester,
huiusce fratris filius, Agorastocles.

Ad.

Amabo,
num hi falso oblectant gaudio nos?

Agor.
At ita me di servent,
ut hic páter est vester. date manus.

Ad.

Salve, insperate nobis
pater, té complecti nos sine.

Ant.
Cupite atque exspectate

pater, salve.

Ad.

Ambae filiae sumus.

Ant.
Amplectamur ambae.

Agor.
Quis me amplectetur postea?

Han.
Nunc ego sum fotunatus,
multorum annorum miserias nunc hac voluptate sedo.

Ad.

Vix hoc videmur credere.

Han.
Magis quí credatis dicam.
nam vostra nutrix † primum me cognovit.

Ad.

Vbi ea, amabo, est?

Han.
Apud hunc est.

Agor.
Quaeso, qui lubet tam diu tenere collum?
omitte saltem tu altera. nolo ego istuc.

Ad.

Enicas me.

...

prius quám tibi desponderit.

Agor.
Mitto.

Ad.

Sperate, salve.

Han.
Condamus alter alterum ergo in nervom bracchialem.
quibus núnc in terra melius est?

Agor.
Eveniunt digna dignis.

Han.
Tandem huic cupitum contigit.

Ag.

O Apella, o Zeuxis pictor,
cur numero éstis mortui, hoc exemplo ut pingeretis?
nam alios pictores nil moror huius modi tractare exempla.

Han.
Dí deaeque omnes, vóbis habeo mérito magnas grátias,
quom hac me laetitia adfecistis tanta et tantis gaudiis,
ut meae gnátae ad me redirent in potestatem meam.

Ad.

Mi pater, tua pietas plane nobis auxilio fuit.

Agor.
Patrue, facito in memoria habeas, tuam maiorem filiam
mihi te despondisse.

Han.
Memini.

Agor.
Et dotis quid promiseris.

Antamonides
Si ego minam non ultus fuero probe, quam lenoni dedi,
tum profecto me sibi habento scurrae ludificatui.
is etiam me ad prandium ad se abduxit ignavissimus,
ipse abiit foras, mé reliquit pro atriensi in aedibus,
ubi nec leno néque illae redeunt, nec quod edim quicquam datur.
pro maiore parte prandi pignus cepi, abii foras;
sic dedero: aere militari tetigero lenunculum.
nanctus est hominem, mina quem argenti circumduceret.
sed mea amica nunc mihi irato obviam veniat velim:
iam pol ego illam pugnis totam faciam uti sit merulea,
ita replebo átritate, átrior multo ut siet,
quam Aegyptini, qui cortinam ludis per circum ferunt.

Anter.
Tene sis me arte, mea voluptas; male ego metuo miluos,
mala illa bestia est, ne forte me auferat pullum tuom.

Ad.

Vt nequeo te satis complecti, mi pater.

Antam.
Ego me moror.
propemodúm hoc opsonare prandium potero mihi.
sed quid hoc ést? quid est? quid hóc est? quid ego video? quo modo?
quid hoc est conduplicationis? quae haec est congeminatio?
quis hic homo est cum tunicis longis quasi puer cauponius?
satin ego oculis cerno? estne illaec mea amica Anterastilis?
et ea est certo. iam pridem ego me sensi nihili pendier.
non pudet puellam ámplexari baiolum in media via?
iam hercle ego illum éxcruciandum totum carnufici dabo.

sane genus hoc mulierosumst tunicis demissiciis.
sed adire certum est hanc amatricem Africam.
heus tu, tibi dico, mulier, ecquid te pudet?
quid tibi negoti est autem cum istac? dic mihi.

Han.
Adulescens, salve.

Antam.
Nolo, nihil ad te attinet.
quid tibi hanc digito tactio est?

Han.
Quia mihi lubet.

Ant.
Lubet?

Han.
Ita dico.

Ant.
Ligula, i in malam crucem.
tune hic amator audes esse, hallex viri,
aut contrectare quod mares homines amant?
deglupta mena, sarrapis, sementium,
manstruca, halagora, sampsa, tum autem plenior
ali ulpicique quam Romani remiges.

Agor.
Num tibi, adulescens, malae aut dentes pruriunt,
qui huic es molestus, an malam rem quaeritas?

Antam.
Quin adhibuisti, dum istaec loquere, tympanum?
nam te cinaedum esse arbitror magis quam virum.

Agor.

Scin quam cinaedus sum? ite istinc, servi, foras,
ecferte fustis.

Antam.
Heus tu, si quid per iocum
dixi, nolito in serium convertere.

Anter.
Qui tibi lubido est, opsecro, Antamonides,
loqui inclementer nostro cognato et patri?
nam hic noster pater est; hic nos cognovit modo
et hunc sui fratris filium.

Antam.
Ita me Iuppiter
bene amet, bene factum. gaudeo et volup est mihi,
si quid lenoni óptigit magni mali.
quomque e virtute vobis fortuna optigit.

Anter.
Credibile ecastor dicit. crede huic, mi pater.

Han.
Credo.

Agor.
Et ego credo. sed eccum lenonem Lycum.

Agor.
Bonum virum eccum video, se recipit domum;

Han.
Quis hic est?

Agor.
Vtrumvis est, vel leno vel Lycus.
in servitute hic filias habuit tuas
et mi auri fur est.

Han.
Bellum hominem, quem noveris.
rapiamus in ius.

Han.
Minime.

Ag.

Quapropter?

Han.

Quia
†iniuriarum multo induci satius est.

Lycvs
Decipitur nemo, mea quidem sententia,
qui suis amicis narrat recte res suas;
nam omnibus amicis meis idem unum convenit,
ut me suspendam, ne addicar Agorastocli.

Ag.

Leno, eamus in ius.

Lyc.
Opsecro te, Agorastocles,
suspendere ut me liceat.

Han.
In ius te voco.

Lyc.
Quid tibi mecum autem?

Han.
Quia hasce aio liberas
ingenuasque esse filias ambas meas;

eae súnt surruptae cum nutrice parvolae.

Lyc.
Iam pridem equidem istuc scivi, et miratus fui,
neminem venire qui istas adsereret manu.
meae quidem profecto non sunt.

Antam.
Leno, in ius eas.

Lyc.
De prandio tu dicis. debetur, dabo.

Ag.

Duplum pro furto mi opus est.

Lyc.
Sume hinc quid lubet.

Han.
Et mihi suppliciis multis.

Lyc.
Sume hinc quid lubet:

Antam.
Et mihi quidem mina argenti.

Ly.
Sume hinc quid lubet.
collo rem solvam iam omnibus, quasi baiolus.

Ag.

Numquid recusas contra me?

Lyc.
Haud verbum quidem.

Ag.

Ite igitur intro, mulieres. sed patrue mi,
tuam, ut dixisti, mihi desponde filiam.

Han.
Haud aliter ausim.

Antam.
Bene vale.

Ag.

Et tu bene vale.

Antam.
Leno, arrabonem hoc pro mina mecum fero. —

Lyc.
Perii hercle.

Ag.

Immo haud multo post, si in ius veneris.

Lyc.
Quin egomet tibi me addico. quid praetore opust?
verum obsecro te, ut liceat simplum solvere,
trecentos Philippos; credo conradi potest:
cras auctionem faciam.

Ag.

Tantisper quidem
ut sis apud me lignea in custodia.

Lyc.
Fiat.

Ag.

Sequere intro, patrue mi, út hunc festum diem
habeamus hilare, huius malo et nostro bono.
multum valete. multa verba fecimus;
malum postremo omne ad lenonem reccidit.
nunc, quod postremum est condimentum fabulae,
si placuit, plausum postulat comoedia. —

Agor.
Quam rém agis, miles? qui lubet patruo meo
loqui inclementer? ne mirere, mulieres
quod eum secuntur: modo cognovit filias
suas ésse hasce ambas.

Lycvs
Hem, quod verbum aures meas
tetigit? nunc perii.

Antam.
Vnde haec perierunt domo?

Ag.

Carthaginienses sunt.

Lyc.
At ego sum perditus.
illuc ego metui semper, ne cognosceret
eas áliquis, quod nunc factumst. vae misero mihi,
periere, opinor, duodeviginti minae,
qui hasce emi.

Agor.
Et tute ipse periisti, Lyce.

Han.
Quis hic est?

Agor.
Vtrumvis est, vel leno vel Lycus.
in servitute hic filias habuit tuas,
et mi auri fur est.

Han.
Bellum hominem, quem noveris.

Antam.
Leno, rapacem te esse semper credidi,
verúm etiam furacem qui norunt magis.

Lyc.
Accedam. per ego tua te genua óbsecro
et hunc, cognatum quem tuom esse intellego:
quando boni estis, ut bonos facere addecet
faciatis, vestro subveniatis supplici.
iam pridem equidem istas scivi ésse liberas
et exspectabam, si qui eas ássereret manu.
nam non meae sunt prosum. tum autem aurum tuom
reddam, quod apud me est, et iusiurandum dabo,
me malitiose nil fecisse, Agorastocles.

Agor.
Quid mihi par facere sit, ego mecum consulam.
omitte genua.

Lyc.
Mitto, si ita sententia est.

Antam.
Heús tu leno.

Lyc.
Quid lenonem vis inter negotium?

Antam.
Vt minam mi argenti reddas, prius quam in nervom abducere.

Lyc.
Di meliora faxint.

Antam.
Sic est: hodie cenabis toris.
aurum argentum collum, leno, tris res nunc debes simul.

Han.
Quid me in hac re facere deceat, egomet mecum cogito.
si volo hunc ulcisci, litis sequar in alieno oppido,
quantum audivi ingenium et mores eius quo pacto sient.

Adelph.
Mi pater, ne quid tibi cum istoc rei sit pessumo, obsecro.

Anter.
Ausculta sorori. abi, díiunge inimicitias cum improbo.

Han.
Hoc age sis, leno. quamquam ego te meruisse ut pereas scio,
non experiar tecum.

Agor.
Neque ego; si aurum mihi reddes meum,
leno, quando ex nervo emissu's — compingare in carcerem.

Lyc.
Iamne autem ut soles?

Antam.
Ego, Poene, tibi me purgatum volo.
si quid dixi iratus advorsum animi tui sententiam,
id uti ignoscas quaeso; et quom istas invenisti filias,
ita me di ament ut mihi volup est.

Han.
Ignosco et credo tibi.

Antam.
Leno, tu autem amicam mihi des facito aut auri mihi reddas minam.

Lyc.
Vin tibicinam meam habere?

Antam.
Nil moror tibicinam;
nescias, utrum ei maiores buccaene an mammae sient.

Lyc.
Dabo quae placeat.

Antam.
Cura.

Lyc.
Aúrum cras ad te referam tuom.

Agor.
Facito in memoria habeas.

Lyc.
Miles, sequere me. —

Antam.
Ego vero sequor. —

Agor.
Quid ais, patrue? quando hinc ire cogitas Carthaginem?
nam tecum mi una ire certum est.

Han.
Vbi primum potero, ilico.

Agor.
Dum auctionem facio, hic opus est aliquot ut maneas dies.

Han.

Faciam ita ut vis.

Agor.
Age sis, eamus, nos curemus. plaudite.

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PROLOGVS

exporgi meliust lumbos atque exsurgier:
Plautina longa fabula in scaenam venit.

ACT I.

Psevdolvs
Si ex te tacente fieri possem certior,
ere, quae miseriae te tam misere macerent,
duorúm labori ego hominum parsissem lubens,
mei te rogandi et tis respondendi mihi;
nunc quoniam id fieri non potest, necessitas
me subigit ut te rogitem. responde mihi:
quid est quod tu exanimatus iam hos multos dies
gestas tabellas tecum, eas lacrumis lavis,
neque tui participem consili quemquam facis?
eloquere, ut quod ego nescio id tecum sciam.

Calidorvs
Misere miser sum, Pseudole.

Ps.
Id te Iuppiter
prohibessit.

Cal.

Nihil hoc Iovis ad iudicium attinet:
sub Veneris regno vapulo, non sub Iovis.

Ps.
Licet me id scire quid sit? nam tu me antidhac
supremum habuisti comitem consiliis tuis.

Cal.

Idem animus nunc est.

Ps.
Face me certum quid tibist;
iuvabo aut ré aut opera aut consilio bono.

Cal.

Cape has tabellas, tute hinc narrato tibi
quae me miseria et cura contabefacit.

Ps.
Mos tibi geretur. sed quid hoc, quaeso?

Cal.

Quid est?

Ps.
Vt opinor, quaerunt litterae hae sibi liberos:
alia aliam scandit.

Cal.

Ludis iam ludo tuo?

Ps.
Has quidem pol credo nisi Sibulla legerit,
interpretari álium posse neminem.

Cal.

Cur inclementer dicis lepidis litteris
lepidis tabellis lepida conscriptis manu?

Ps.
An, opsecro hercle, habent quas gallinae manus?
nam has quidem gallina scripsit.

Cal.

Odiosus mihi es.
lege vel tabellas redde.

Ps.

Immo enim pellegam.
advortito animum.

Cal.

Non adest.

Ps.
At tu cita.

Cal.

Immo ego tacebo, tu istinc ex cera cita;
nam istic meus animus nunc est, non in pectore.

Ps.
Tuam amicam video, Calidore.

Cal.

Vbi ea est, opsecro?

Ps.
Eccam in tabellis porrectam: in cera cubat.

Cal.

At te di deaeque quantumst —

Ps.
Servassint quidem.

Cal.

Quasi solstitialis herba paulisper fui:
repente exortus sum, repentino occidi.

Ps.
Tace, dúm tabellas pellego.

Cal.

Ergo quin legis?

Ps.
“Phoenicium Calidoro amatori suo
per ceram et lignum litterasque interpretes
salutem mittit et salutem abs te expetit,
lacrumans titubanti ánimo, corde et pectore.”

Cal.

Perii, salutem nusquam invenio, Pseudole,
quam illi remittam.

Ps.
Quam salutem?

Cal.

Argenteam.

Ps.
Pro lignean salute vis argenteam
remittere illi? vide sis quam tu rem geras.

Cal.

Recita modo: ex tabellis iam faxo scies
quam subito argento mi usus invento siet.

Ps.
“Leno me peregre militi Macedonio
minis viginti vendidit, voluptas mea;
et prius quam hinc abiit, quindecim miles minas
dederat; nunc unae quinque remorantur minae.
ea caúsa miles hic reliquit symbolum,
expressam in cera ex anulo suam imaginem,

ut qui huc adferret eius similem symbolum,
cum eo simul me mitteret. ei rei dies
haec praestituta est, proxuma Dionysia.”
cras ea quidem sunt.

Cal.

Prope adest exitium mihi,
nisi quid mihi in te est auxili.

Ps.
Sine pellegam.

Cal.

Sino, nám mihi videor cúm ea fabularier;
lege: dulce amarumque una nunc misces mihi.

Ps.
“Nunc nostri amores mores consuetudines,
iocus lúdus sermo suavisaviatio
compressiones artae amantum corporum,
teneris labellis molles morsiunculae,
nostrorum órgiorum — iunculae
papillarum horridularum oppressiunculae,
harunc voluptátum mi omnium atque itidem tibi
distractio discidium vastities venit,
nisi quae mihi in test aut tibist in me salus.
haec quaé ego scivi ut scires curavi omnia;
nunc ego te experiar quid ames, quid simules. vale.”

Cal.

Est misere scriptum, Pseudole.

Ps.
O, miserrime.

Cal.

Quin fles?

Ps.
Pumiceos oculos habeo: non queo
lacrumam exorare ut expuant unam modo.

Cal.

Quid ita?

Ps.
Genus nostrum semper siccoculum fuit.

Cal.

Nilne adiuvare me audes?

Ps.
Quid faciam tibi?

Cal.

Eheú.

Ps.
Eheu? id quidem hercle ne parsis: dabo.

Cal.

Miser sum, argentum nusquam invenio mutuom.

Ps.
Eheu.

Cal.

Neque intus nummus ullus est.

Ps.
Eheu.

Cal.

Ille abducturus est mulierem cras.

Ps.
Eheu.

Cal.

Istocine pacto me adiuvas?

Ps.
Do id quod mihi est;
nam is mihi thensaurus iugis in nostra est domo.

Cal.

Actum est de me hodie. sed potes nunc mutuam
drachumam dare unam mihi, quam cras reddam tibi?

Ps.
Vix hercle, opinor, si me opponam pignori.
sed quid ea drachuma facere vis?

Cal.

Restim volo
mihi émere.

Ps.
Quam ob rem?

Cal.

Qui me faciam pensilem.
certum est mihi ante tenebras tenebras persequi.

Ps.
Quis mi igitur drachumam reddet, si dedero tibi?
an tu te ea caúsa vis sciens suspendere
ut me defraudes, drachumam si dederim tibi?

Cal.

Profecto nullo pacto possum vivere,
si illa a me abalienatur atque abducitur.

Ps.
Quid fles, cucule? vives.

Cal.

Quid ego ni fleam,
quoi nec paratus nummus argenti siet
neque libellai spes sit usquam gentium?

Ps.
Vt litterarum ego harum sermonem audio,
nisi tu illi lacrumis fleveris argenteis,
quod tu istis lacrumis te probare postulas,
non pluris refert quam si imbrem in cribrum geras.
verum ego te amantem, ne pave, non deseram.
spero alicunde hodie me bona opera aut hac mea
tibi inventurum esse auxilium argentarium.
atque id futurum unde unde dicam nescio,
nisi quia futurum est: ita supercilium salit.

Cal.

Vtinam quae dicis dictis facta suppetant.

Ps.
Scis tu quidem hercle, mea si commovi sacra,
quo pacto et quantas soleam turbellas dare.

Cal.

In te nunc omnes spes sunt aetati meae.

Ps.
Satin est, si hanc hodie mulierem efficio tibi
tua ut sit, aut si tibi do viginti minas?

Cal.

Satis, sí futurumst.

Ps.
Roga me viginti minas,
ut me effecturum tibi quod promisi scias.
roga, opsecro hercle. gestio promittere.

Cal.

Dabisne argenti mi hodie viginti minas?

Ps.
Dabo. molestus nunciam ne sis mihi.
atque hoc, ne dictum tibi neges, dico prius:
si neminem alium potero, tuom tangam patrem.

Cal.

Di te mihi semper servent. verum, si potest,
pietatis causa — vel etiam matrem quoque.

Ps.
De istac re in oculum utrumvis conquiescito.

Cal.

Oculum anne in aurem?

Ps.

At hoc pervolgatumst minus.
nunc, ne quis dictum sibi neget, dico omnibus
pube praesenti in contione: omni poplo,
omnibus amicis notisque edico meis,
in hunc diem a me ut caveant, ne credant mihi.

Cal.

St, táce opsecro hércle.

Ps.
Quid negoti est?

Cal.

Ostium
lenonis crepuit.

Ps.
Crura mavellem modo.

Cal.

Atque ipse egreditur intus, periuri caput.

Ballio
Exíte, agite exite, ígnavi, male hábiti et male concíliati,
quorúm numquam quicquám quoiquam venit ín mentem ut recté faciant,
quibus, nísi ad hoc exemplum éxperior, non pótest usura usúrpari.
neque ego hómines magis asinós numquam vidi, íta plagis costaé callent:
quós quom ferias, tíbi plus noceas; éo enim ingenio hi súnt flagritribae,
qui haéc habent cónsilia, úbi data occásiost, rape clépe tene hárpaga bibe és fuge: hoc
ést eorum opus, ut mávelis lúpos apud ovis línquere,
quam hós domi custodes.

át faciem quom aspícias eorum, hau máli videntur: ópera fallunt.
núnc adeo hanc edictionem nisi animum advortetis omnes,
nisi somnum socordiamque ex pectore oculisque exmovetis,
ita ego vestra latera loris faciam ut valide varia sint,
ut né peristromáta quidem aeque pícta sint Campánica
neque Aléxandrina beluata tonsilia tappetia.
atque héri iam edixeram omnibus dederamque eas provincias,
verum ita vos estis praediti callenti ingenio ímprobi,
officium vestrum ut vos malo cogatis commonerier;
nempe íta animati éstis vos: vincítis duritia hoc átque me.
hoc sis vide, ut alias res agunt. hoc ágite, hoc animum advortite,
huc adhibete auris quae ego loquor, plagigera genera hóminum.
numquam edepol vostrum durius tergum erit quam terginum hoc meum.
quid nunc? doletne? em sic datur, si quis erum servos spernit.
adsistite omnes contra me et quae loquar advortite animum.
tu qui urnam habes aquam ingere, face plenum ahenum sit coco.
te cum securi caudicali praeficio provinciae.

Servvs
At haec retunsast.

Bal.

Sine siet; itidem vos quoque estis plagis omnes:
numqui minus ea gratia tamen omnium opera útor?
tíbi hoc praecipio ut níteant aedes. hábes quod facias: própera, abi intro.
tu esto lectisterniator. tu argentum eluito, idem exstruito.
haec, quom ego a foro revortar, facite ut offendam parata,
vorsa sparsa, tersa strata, lautaque unctaque omnia ut sint.
nam mi hódie natalís dies est, decet éum omnis vos concélebrare.
pernám callum glandiúm sumen facito ín aqua iaceant. sátin audis?
magnífice volo me víros summos accípere, ut mihi rem essé reantur.
intro abíte atque haec cito célerate, ne móra quae sit, cocus cum veniat;

ego eo ín macellum, ut píscium quidquíd ibist pretio praéstinem.
i, púere, prae; ne quísquam pertundát cruminam caútiost.
vel ópperire, est quód domi dicére paene fui oblítus.
audítin? vobis, múlieres, hanc hábeo edictiónem.
vós, quae in munditiís, mollitiis déliciisque aetátulam agitis,
viris cúm summis, inclútae amicae, nunc égo scibo atque hodie éxperiar,
quae cápiti, quae ventri óperam det, quae suaé rei, quae somnó studeat;
quam líbertam fore míhi credam et quam vénalem, hodie expériar.
facite hódie ut mihi munéra multa huc ab amátoribus convéniant.
nam nísi mihi penus annúos hodie † convenit, cras populo prostituam vos.
natálem scitis mi ésse diem hunc: ubi istí sunt quibus vos óculi estis,
quibus vítae, quibus delíciae estis, quibus sávia, mammia, méllillae?
maniplátim mihi munérigeruli facite ánte aedis iam hic ádsint.
cur égo vestem, aurum atque éa quibus est vobís usus, prahibeo?
aút quid mi
domi nísi malum vestra operást hodie? improbaé vini modo cúpidae estis:
eo vós † vestros panticesque adeo madefáctatis, quom ego sim híc siccus.
nunc ádeo hoc factust óptumum, ut nomíne quemque appellem suo,
ne díctum esse actutúm sibi quaepiám vostrarum míhi neget:
advórtite animum cúnctae.
princípio, Hedytium, técum ago, quae amíca es frumentáriis,
quibus cúnctis montes máxumi acervi frumenti súnt domi:
fac sís sit delatum húc mihi fruméntum, hunc annum quód satis,
mi et fámiliae omni sít meae, atque ádeo ut frumento áfluam,
ut cívitas nomén mihi commútet meque ut praédicet
lenóne ex Ballióne regem Iásonem.

Cal.

Aúdin, furcifér quae loquitur? sátin magnificus tíbi videtur?

Psevd.

Pól iste, atque etiam málificus.
séd tace atque hanc rém gere.

Bal.

Aéschrodora, tú quae amicos tíbi habes lenonum aémulos
lánios, qui, item ut nós iurando, iúre malo male quaérunt rem, audi:
nísi carnariá tria gravida tégoribus onere úberi hodie
míhi erunt, cras te quási Dircam olim, ut mémorant, duo gnatí Iovis
dévinxere ad taúrum, item ego te dístringam ad carnárium;
íd tibi profecto taúrus fiet.

Cal.

Nímis sermone huius íra incendor.

Ps.
Húncine hic hominém pati
cólere iuventutem Átticam?
úbi sunt, ubi laténtquibus aetas íntegra est, qui amant á lenone?
quín conveniunt? quín una omnes péste hac populum hunc líberant?
sed nímium stultus, nímis fui
indóctus: illine aúdeant
id fácere quibus ut sérviant
suos ámor cogit?
simul prohibet faciant adversum eos quod nolunt

Cal.

Vah táce.

Ps.
Quid est?

Cal.

Male mórigeru's mihi, quóm sermoni huius óbsonas.

Ps.
Táceo.

Cal.

At taceas málo multo quám tacere dicas.

Bal.

Tu aútem,
Xýstilis, fac ut ánimum advortas, quóius amatorés olivi
δὐναμιν domi habent máxumam.
sí mihi non iam huc cúlleis
óleum deportátum erit,
te ípsam culleo égo cras faciam ut déportere — in pérgulam;
íbi tibi adeo léctus dabitur, úbi tu hau somnum cápias, sed ubi
úsque ad languorém — tenes
quó se haec tendant quaé loquor.
áin, excetra tu? quaé tibi amicos tót habes tam probe óleo onustos,
num quoípiam est hodié tua tuorum ópera conservórum
nítidiusculúm caput? aut num ipse égo pulmento utór magis
únctiusculó? sed scio, tu óleum hau magni péndis, vino
té devincis. síne modo,
réprehendam hercle ego cúncta una opera, nísi quidem hodie tu ómnia
fácis effecta haec út loquor.
tu aútem, quae pro cápite argentum míhi iam iamque sémper numeras,
éa pacisci módo scis, sed quod pácta es non scis sólvere,
Phoenícium, tibi ego haéc loquor, delíciae summatúm virum:
nísi hodie mi ex fúndis tuorum amícorum omne huc pénus adfertur,
crás Phoeniciúm poeniceo cório invises pérgulam.

Cal.

Pseudóle, non audis quae híc loquitur?

Ps.

Audío, ere, equidem atque animum ádvorto.

Cal.

Quid mi és auctor, huic út mittam, ne amícam hic meam prostítuat?

Ps.
Nil cúrassis, liquido és animo: ego pró me et pro te cúrabo.
iam díu ego huic bene et hic míhi volumus, et amícitia est antíqua:
mittam hódie huic suo die nátali malam rém magnam et matúram.

Cal.

Quid opúst?

Ps.
Potin aliam rem út cures?

Cal.

At —

Ps.
Bát.

Cal.

Crucior.

Ps.
Cor dúra.

Cal.

Non póssum.

Ps.
Fac possís.

Call.

Quonam pactó possim?

Ps.
Vince ánimum.
in rém quod sit praevórtaris quam in re ádvorsa animo auscúltes.

Ca.

Nugae ístaec sunt: non iúcundumst nisi amáns facit stulte.

Ps.
Pérgin?

Cal.

O Pseúdole mi, sine sím nihili,
mitte mé sis.

Ps.
Sino, modo ego ábeam.

Cal.

Mane, máne, iam ut voles med ésse ita ero.

Ps.
Nunc tú sapis.

Bal.

Ít dies; egó mihi cesso.
í prae, puere.

Cal.

Heus, ábit. quin revocas?

Ps.
Quíd properas? placide.

Cal.

Át prius quam abeat.

Bal.

Quíd hoc, malum, tam plácide is, puere?

Ps.
Hódie nate, heus, hódie nate, tíbi ego dico, heus, hódie nate,
redi ét respice ád nos. tamétsi occupátu's,
morámur. mane, ém conloquí qui volúnt te.

Bal.

Quid hóc est? quis ést qui morám mi occupáto
moléstam optulit?

Ps.
Qui tibí sospitalis
fuít.

Bal.

Mortuóst qui fuít: qui sit úsust.

Ps.
Nímis superbe.

Bal.

Nímis molestus.

Cal.

Réprehende hominem, adséquere.

Bal.

I puere.

Ps.
Occédamus hác obviám.

Bal.

Iuppitér te
perdát, quisquis és.

Ps.
Te volo.

Bal.

Át vos ego ámbos.
vorte hác te, puere.

Ps.
Non licét conloquí te?

Bal.

At míhi non lubét.

Ps.
Sin tuámst quippiam ín rem?

Bal.

Licétne, opsecró, bitere án non licet?

Ps.
Vah,
mánta.

Bal.

Omitte.

Cal.

Bállio, audi.

Bal.

Súrdus sum † profecto inanilogistae.

Cal.

Dedí dum fuít.

Bal.

Non petó quod dedísti.

Cal.

Dabó quando erít.

Bal.

Ducitó quando habébis.

Cal.

Éheu, quam ego malis pérdidi modis
quód tibi détuli et quód dedi.

Bal.

Mórtua
vérba re núnc facis; stúltus es, rem áctam agis.

Ps.
Nósce saltem húnc quis est.

Bal.

Iám diu scio
quí fuit: núnc qui sit ipsús sciat.
ámbula tú.

Ps.
Potin út semel modo,
Bállio, huc cúm lucro respícias?

Bal.

Réspiciam istoc prétio; nam si sácruficem summó Iovi
atque in manibus exta teneam, ut poriciam, interea loci
si lucri quid detur, potius rem divinam deseram.
non potest pietati opsisti huíc, utut rés sunt ceterae.

Ps.
Deos quidem, quos maxume aequom est metuere, eos minimi facit.

Bal.

Compellabo. salve multum, serve Athenis pessume.

Ps.
Di te deaeque ament vel huius arbitratu vel meo,
vel, si dignu's alio pacto, neque ament nec faciant bene.

Bal.

Quid agitur, Calidore?

Cal.

Amatur atque egetur acriter.

Bal.

Misereat, si familiam alere possim misericordia.

Ps.

Heia, scimus nos quidem te qualis sis; ne praedices.
sed scin quid nos volumus?

Bal.

Pol ego propemodum: ut male sit mihi.

Ps.
Et id et hoc quod te revocamus. quaeso animum advorte.

Bal.

Audio.
atque in pauca, ut occupatus nunc sum, confer quid velis.

Ps.
Hunc pudet, quod tibi promisit quaque id promisit die,
quia tibi minas viginti pró amica etiam non dedit.

Bal.

Nimio id quod pudet facilius fertur quam illud quod piget.
non dedisse istunc pudet: me quia non accepi piget.

Ps.
At dabit, parabit: aliquot hos dies manta modo.
nám hic id metuit, ne illam vendas ob simultatem suam.

Bal.

Fuit occasio, si vellet, iam pridem argentum ut daret.

Cal.

Quid, si non habui?

Bal.

Si amabas, invenires mutuom,

ad danistam devenires, adderes faenusculum,
surruperes patri.

Ps.
Surruperet hic patri, audacissume?
non periclumst ne quid recte monstres.

Bal.

Non lenoniumst.

Cal.

Egon patri surrupere possim quicquam, tam cauto seni?
atque adeo, si facere possim, pietas prohibet.

Bal.

Audio.
pietatem ergo istam amplexator noctu pro Phoenicio.
sed cum pietatem te amori video tuo praevortere,
omnes homines tibi patres sunt? nullus est tibi quem roges
mutuom argentum?

Cal.

Quin nomen quoque iam interiit mutuom.

Ps.
Heus tu, postquam hercle isti a mensa surgunt satis poti viri,
qui suom repetunt, alienum reddunt nato nemini,
postilla omnes cautiores sunt, ne credant alteri.

Cal.

Nimis miser sum, nummum nusquam reperire argenti queo;
ita miser et amore pereo et inopia argentaria.

Bal.

Eme die caeca hercle olivom, id vendito oculata die:
iam hercle vel ducentae fieri possunt praesentes minae.

Cal.

Perii, annorum lex me perdit quinavicenaria.
metuont credere omnes.

Bal.

Eadem est mihi lex: metuo credere.

Ps.
Credere autem? eho an paenitet te, quanto hic fuerit usui?

Bal.

Non est usu quisquam amator nisi qui perpetuat data;
det, det usque: quando nil sit, simul amare desinat.

Cal.

Nilne te miseret?

Bal.

Inanis cedis, dicta non sonant.
atque ego te vivom salvomque vellem.

Ps.
Eho an iam mortuost?

Bal.

Vtut est, mihi quidem profecto cum istis dictis mortuost:
ilico vixit amator, ubi lenoni supplicat.
semper tu ad me cum argentata accedito querimonia;
nam istuc quod nunc lamentare, non esse argentum tibi,
apud novercam querere.

Ps.
Eho an umquam tu huius nupsisti patri?

Bal.

Di melius faciant.

Ps.
Face hoc quod te rogamus, Ballio,
mea fide, si isti formidas credere. ego in hoc triduo
aut terra aut marí alicunde evolvam id argentum tibi.

B.
Tibi ego credam?

P.
Quor non?

B.
Quia pol quá opera credam tibi,
una opera alligem fugitivam canem agninis lactibus.

Cal.

Sicine mi abs te bene merenti male refertur gratia?

Bal.

Quid nunc vis?

Cal.

Vt opperiare hos sex dies aliquos modo,
ne illam vendas neu me perdas hominem amantem.

Bal.

Animo bono es.
vel sex menses opperibor.

Cal.

Euge, homo lepidissume.

Bal.

Immo vin etiam te faciam ex laeto laetantem magis?

Cal.

Quid iam?

Bal.

Quia enim non venalem iám habeo Phoenicium.

Cal.

Non habes?

Bal.

Non hercle vero.

Cal.

Pseudole, ei accerse hostias,
victumas, lanios, ut ego huic sacruficem summo Iovi;
nam hic mihi nunc est multo potior Iuppiter quam Iuppiter.

Bal.

Nolo victumas: agninis me extis placari volo.

Cal.

Propera, quid stas? ei accerse agnos. audin quid ait Iuppiter?

Ps.

Iam hic ero; verum extra portam mi etiam currendumst prius.

Cal.

Quid eo?

Ps.
Lanios inde accersam duo cum tintinnabulis,
eadem duo greges virgarum inde ulmearum adegero,
ut hodie ad litationem huic suppetat satias Iovi.

Bal.

I in malam crucem.

Ps.
Istuc ibit Iuppiter lenonius.

Bal.

Ex tua re est, ut ego emoriar.

Ps.
Quidum?

Bal.

Ego dicam tibi:
quia edepol, dum ego vivos vivam, numquam eris frugi bonae.

Bal.

Ex tua re non est, ut ego emoriar.

Ps.
Quidum?

Bal.

Sic, quia

sí ego emortuos sim, Athenis te sit nemo nequior.

Cal.

Dic mihi, obsecro hercle, verum serio hoc quod te rogo.
non habes venalem amicam tu meam Phoenicium?

Bal.

Non edepol habeo profecto, nam iam pridem vendidi.

Cal.

Quo modo?

Bal.

Sine ornamentis, cum intestinis omnibus.

Cal.

Meam tu amicam vendidisti?

Bal.

Valde, viginti minis.

Cal.

Viginti minis?

Bal.

Vtrum vis, vel quater quinis minis,
militi Macedonio, et iam quindecím habeo minas.

Cal.

Quid ego ex te audio?

Bal.

Amicam tuam esse factam argenteam.

Cal.

Cur id ausu’s facere?

Bal.

Libuit, mea fuit.

Cal.

Eho, Pseudole,
ei, gladium adfer.

Ps.
Quid opus gladio?

Cal.

Qui hunc occidam atque me.

Ps.
Quin tu ted occidis potius? nam hunc fames iam occiderit.

Cal.

Quid ais, quantum terra † tegit hominum periurissume?
iuravistin te illam nulli venditurum nisi mihi?

Bal.

Fateor.

Cal.

Nempe concéptis verbis?

Bal.

Etiam consutis quoque.

Cal.

Periuravisti, sceleste.

Bal.

At argentum intro condidi.
ego scelestus nunc argentum promere possum domo:
tu qui pius, istoc es genere gnatus, nummum non habes.

Cal.

Pseudole, adsiste altrim secus atque onera hunc maledictis.

Ps.
Licet.
numquam ad praetorem aeque cursim curram, ut emittar manu.

Cal.

Ingere mala multa.

Ps.
Iam ego te differam dictis meis.
impudice.

Bal.

Itast.

Cal.

Sceleste.

Bal.

Dicis vera.

Ps.
Verbero.

Bal.

Quippini?

Cal.

Bustirape.

Bal.

Certo.

Ps.
Furcifer.

Bal.

Factum optume.

Cal.

Sociofraude.

Bal.

Sunt mea istaec.

Ps.
Parricida.

Bal.

Perge tu.

Cal.

Sacrilege.

Bal.

Fateor.

Ps.
Periure.

Bal.

Vetera vaticinamini.

Cal.

Legirupa.

Bal.

Valide.

Ps.
Permities adulescentum.

Bal.

Acerrume.

Cal.

Fur.

Bal.

Babae.

Ps.
Fugitive.

Bal.

Bombax.

Cal.

Fraus populi.

Bal.

Planissume.

Ps.
Fraudulente.

Cal.

Impure.

Ps.
Leno.

Cal.

Caenum.

Bal.

Cantores probos.

Cal.

Verberavisti patrem atque matrem.

Bal.

Atque occidi quoque,
potius quam cibum praehiberem: num peccavi quippiam?

Ps.
In pertusum ingerimus dicta dolium, operam ludimus.

Bal.

Numquid aliud etiam voltis dicere?

Cal.

Ecquid te pudet?

Bal.

Ten, amatorem esse inventum inanem quasi cassam nucem?
verum quamquam multa malaque dicta dixistis mihi,
nisi mihi hodie attulerit miles quinque quas debet minas,
sicut haec est praestituta summa ei argento dies,
si id non adfert, posse opinor facere me officium meum.

Cal.

Quid id est?

Bal.

Si tu argentum attuleris, cum illo perdidero fidem:
hoc meum est officium. ego, operae si sit, plus tecum loquar;
sed sine argénto frustra es qui me tui misereri postulas.
haec meast sententia, ut tu hinc porro quid agas consulas.

Cal.

Iamne abis?

Bal.

Negoti nunc sum plenus. —

Ps.
Paulo post magis.
illic homo meus est, nisi omnes di me atque homines deserunt.
exossabo ego illúm simulter itidem ut murenam coquos.

nunc, Calidore, te mihi operam dare volo.

Cal.

Ecquid imperas?

Ps.
Hoc ego oppidum admoenire, ut hodie capiatur, volo;
ad eam rem usust homine astuto, docto, cauto et callido,
qui imperata ecfecta reddat, non qui vigilans dormiat.

Cal.

Cedo mihi, quid es facturus?

Ps.
Temperi ego faxo scies.
nolo bis iterari, sat sic longae fiunt fabulae.

C.
Optumum atque aequissimum oras.

Ps.
Propera, adduc hominem cito.

Cal.

Pauci ex multis sunt amici, hómini qui certi sient.

Ps.
Ego scio istuc. ergo utrumque, tibi nunc dilectum para
ex multis atque exquire illinc unum qui certus siet.

Cal.

Iam hic faxo aderit. —

Ps.
Potin ut abeas? tibi moram dictis creas.

postquam illic hinc abiit, tu astas solus, Pseudole.
quid nunc acturu's, postquam erili filio
largitu's dictis dapsilis? ubi sunt ea?
quoi neque paratast gutta certi consili,
neque adeo argenti — neque nunc quid faciam scio.
neque exordiri primum unde occipias habes,
neque ad détexundam telam certos terminos.
sed quasi poeta, tabulas cum cepit sibi,
quaerit quod nusquamst gentium, reperit tamen,
facit illud veri simile, quod mendacium est,
nunc ego poeta fiam: viginti minas,
quae nusquam nunc sunt gentium, inveniam tamen.
atque ego me iam pridem huic daturum dixeram
et volui inicere tragulam in nostrum senem;
verum is nescio quo pacto praesensit prius.
sed comprimundast vox mihi atque oratio:
erum eccum video húc Simonem una simul
cum suo vicino Calliphone incedere.
ex hoc sepulcro vetere viginti minas
effodiam ego hodie, quas dem erili filio.
nunc huc concedam, unde horum sermonem legam.

Simo
Si de damnosis aut si dé amatoribus
dictator fiat nunc Athenis Atticis,
nemo anteveniat filio, credo, meo:
ita nunc per urbem solus sermoni omnibust,
eum velle amicam liberare et quaerere
argentum ad eam rem. hoc alii mihi renuntiant;
atque id iam pridem sensi et subolebat mihi,
sed dissimulabam.

Ps.
Iám illi fetet filius.
occisa est haec res, haeret hoc negotium.
quo in commeatum volui árgentarium
proficisci, ibi nunc oppido opsaeptast via.

praesensit: nihil est praedae praedatoribus.

Callipho
Homines qui gestant quique auscultant crimina,
si meo arbitratu liceat, omnes pendeant,
gestores linguis, auditores auribus.
nam istaec quae tibi renuntiantur, filium
te velle amantem argento circumducere,
fors fuat an istaec dicta sint mendacia;
sed si sint ea vera, ut nunc mos est, maxume,
quid mirum fecit? quid novom, adulescens homo
si amat, si amicam liberat?

Ps.
Lepidum senem.

Sim.
Vetus nólo faciat.

Cal.

At enim nequiquam nevis;
vel tu ne faceres tale in adulescentia.
probum patrem esse oportet qui gnatum suom
essé probiorem quam ipsus fuerit postulet.
nam tu quod damni et quod fecisti flagiti
populo viritim potuit dispertirier.
idne tú mirare, si patrissat filius?

Ps.
ὦ Ζεῦ, quam pauci éstis homines commodi. em,
illicést pater patrem esse ut aequom est filio.

Sim.
Quis hic lóquitur? meus est hic quidem sérvos Pseudolus.
hic mihi corrumpit filium, scelerum caput;
hic dux, hic illi est paedagogus, hunc ego
cupio excruciari.

Cal.

Iam istaec insipientiast,
iram in promptu gerere. quanto satius est
adire blandis verbis atque exquaerere,
sintne illa necne sint quae tibi renuntiant.
bonus animus in mala re dimidiumst mali.

Sim.
Tibi auscultabo.

Ps.
Itur ad te, Pseudole.
orationem tibi para advorsum senem.
erum saluto primum, ut aequomst; postea,
si quid superfit, vicinos impertio.

Sim.
Salve. quid agitur?

Ps.
Statur hic ad hunc modum.

Sim.
Statum vide hominis, Callipho, quam basilicum.

Cal.

Bene confidenterque adstitisse intellego.

Ps.
Decet innocentem qui sit atque innoxium
servom superbum esse, apud erum potissimum.

Cal.

Sunt quae te volumus percontari, quae quasi
per nebulam nosmet scimus atque audivimus.

Sim.
Conficiet iam te hic verbis, ut tu censeas
non Pseudolum, sed Socratem tecum loqui.

Ps.
Itast, iam pridem tu me spernis, sentio.
parvam esse apud te mihi fidem ipse intellego.
cupis me ésse nequam: tamen ero frugi bonae.

Sim.
Fac sis vocivas, Pseudole, aedis aurium,
mea ut migrare dicta possint quo volo.

Ps.
Age loquere quidvis, tametsi tibi suscenseo.

Sim.
Mihin dómino servos tu suscenses?

Ps.
Tam tibi
mirum id videtur?

Sim.
Hercle qui, ut tu praedicas,
cavendum est mi aps te irato; atque alio tu modo
me verberare atque ego te soleo cogitas.
quid censes?

Cal.

Edepol merito esse iratum arbitror,
quom apud te parvast ei fides.

Sim.
Iam sic sino;
iratus sit: ego, ne quid noceat, cavero.
sed quid ais? quid hoc, quod te rogo?

Ps.
Sí quid vis, roga.
quod scibo, Delphis tibi responsum dicito.

Sim.
Advorte ergo animum et fac sis promissi memor.
quid ais? ecquam scis filium tibicinam
meum amare?

Ps.
ναὶ γὰρ.

Sim.
Liberare quam velit?

Ps.
καὶ τοῦτο ναὶ γὰρ.

Sim.
Ecquas viginti minas
per sycophantiam atque per doctos dolos
paritas ut auferas a me?

Ps.
Abs te ego auferam?

Sim.
Ita, quas meo gnato des, qui amicam liberet?
fatere, dic.

Ps.
καὶ τοῦτο ναί, καὶ τοῦτο ναί.

Cal.

Fatetur.

Sim.

Dixin, Callipho, dudum tibi?

Cal.

Memini.

Sim.
Quor haec, tu ubi rescivisti ilico,
celata me sunt? quor non rescivi?

Ps.
Eloquar.
quia nolebam ex me morem progigni malum,
erum ut servos criminaret apud erum.

Sim.
Iuberes hunc praecipitem in pistrinum trahi.

Cal.

Numquid peccatum est, Simo?

Sim.
Immo maxime.

Ps.
Desiste, recte ego meam rem sapio, Callipho;
peccata mea sunt. animum advorte nunciam.
quapropter te expertem amoris nati habuerim? †
pistrinum in mundo scibam, si dixem, mihi.

Sim.
Non a me scibas pistrinum in mundo tibi,
cum ea mussitabas?

Ps.
Scibam.

Sim.

Quin dictum est mihi?

Ps.
Quia illúd malum aderat, istuc aberat longius;
illud erat praesens, huic erant dieculae.

Sim.
Quid nunc agetis? nam hinc quidem a me non potest
argentum auferri, qui praesertim senserim.
ne quisquam credat nummum, iam edicam omnibus.

Ps.
Numquam edepol quoiquam supplicabo, dum quidem
tu vives. tu mihi hercle árgentum dabis,
abs te equidem sumam.

Sim.
Tu a me sumes?

Ps.
Strenue.

Sim.
Excludito mi hercle oculum, si dedero.

Ps.
Dabis.
iam dico ut a me caveas.

Sim.
Certe edepol scio,
si apstuleris, mirum et magnum facinus feceris.

Ps.
Faciam.

Sim.
Si non apstuleris?

Ps.
Virgis caedito.
sed quid, si apstulero?

Sim.
Do Iovem testem tibi,
te aetatem impune habiturum.

Ps.
Facito ut memineris.

Sim.
Egon ut cavere nequeam, cui praedicitur?

Ps.
Praedico, ut caveas. dico, inquam, ut caveas. cave.
em istis mihi tu hodie manibus argentum dabis.

Cal.

Edepol mortalem graphicum, si servat fidem.

Ps.
Servitum tibi me abducito, ni fecero.

Cal.

Bene atque amice dicis. †nam nunc, nam meust.

Ps.
Vin etiam dicam quod vos magis miremini?

Cal.

Studeo hercle audire, nam ted ausculto lubens.

110

Sim.

Agedum, nam satis libenter te ausculto loqui.

Ps.
Prius quam ístam pugnam pugnabo, ego etiam prius
dabo aliam pugnam claram et commemorabilem.

Sim.
Quam pugnam?

Ps.
Em ab hoc lenone vicino tuo
per sycophantiam atque per doctos dolos
tibicinam illam, tuos quam gnatus deperit,
ea círcumducam lepide lenonem.

Sim.
Quid est?

Ps.
Effectum hoc hodie reddam utrumque ad vesperum.

Sim.
Siquidem ístaec opera, ut praedicas, perfeceris,
virtute regi Ágathocli antecesseris.
sed si non faxis, numquid causaest, ilico
quin te in pistrinum condam?

Ps.
Non unum in diem modo,
verum hercle in omnis, quantumst; sed si effecero,
dabin mi argentum, quod dem lenoni, ilico,
tua voluntáte?

Cal.

Ius bonum orat Pseudolus;
dabo inque.

Sim.
At enim scin quid mihi in mentem venit?
quid si hisce inter se consenserunt, Callipho,
aut de compecto faciunt consutis dolis,
qui me argento intervertant?

Ps.
Quis me audacior
sit, si istuc facinus audeam? immo sic, Simo:
si sumus compecti seu consilium umquam iniimus de istac re
aut si de ea re umquam inter nos convenimus,
quasi in libro cúm scribuntur calamo litterae
stilis me totum usque ulmeis conscribito.

Sim.
Indice ludos nunciam, quando lubet.

Ps.
Da in hunc diem operam, Callipho, quaeso mihi,
ne quo te ad aliud occupes negotium.

Cal.

Quin rus ut irem iám heri mecum statueram.

Ps.
At nunc disturba quas statuisti machinas.

Cal.

Nunc non abire certum est istac gratia;
lubidost ludos tuos spectare, Pseudole.
et si hunc videbo non dare argentum tibi,
quod dixit, potius quam id non fiat, ego dabo.

Sim.
Non demutabo.

Ps.
Namque edepol, si non dabis,
clamore magno et multo flagitabere.
agite amolimini hinc vos intro nunciam
ac meis vicissim date locum fallaciis.

Cal.

Fiat, geratur mos tibi.

Ps.
Sed te volo
domi usque adesse.

Cal.

Quin tibi hanc operam dico. —

Sim.
At ego ad forum ibo. iam hic ero. —
PS.
Actutum redi.
suspicio est mihi nunc vos suspicarier,
me idcirco haec tanta facinora promittere,
quo vos oblectem, hanc fabulam dum transigam,
neque sim facturus quod facturum dixeram.
non demutabo. atque etiam certum, quod sciam,
quo id sim facturus pacto nil etiam scio,
nisi quia futurumst. nam qui in scaenam provenit,
novo módo novom aliquid inventum adferre addecet;
si id facere nequeat, det locum illi qui queat.
concedere aliquantisper hinc mi intro lubet,
dum concenturio in corde sycophantias.
sed mox exibo, non ero vobis morae;
tibicen vos interibi hic delectaverit. —

ACT II.

Psevdolvs
Pro Iúppiter, ut mihi, quídquid ago, lepide ómnia prospereque éveniunt:
neque quód dubitem neque quód timeam, meo in péctore conditumst cónsilium.
nam ea stúltitiast, facinús magnum timidó cordi credére; nam omnes rés perinde sunt
ut agás, ut eas magní facias; nam ego ín meo pectore príus ...
íta paravi cópias,
duplicís triplicis dolos pérfidias, ut, ubíquomque hostibus cóngrediar (maiórum meúm fretus vírtute dícam,
mea índustria ét malitiá fraudulénta),
facile út vincam, facile út spoliem meos pérduellis meis pérfidiis.
núnc inimicum ego húnc communem meum átque vostrorum ómnium,
Bállionem, exbállistabo lépide: date operam modo;
hóc ego oppidum ádmoenire, ut hodie capiatúr, volo.
atque húc meas legionés adducam; si éxpugno
(facilem hánc rem meis civíbus faciam),
post ád oppidum hoc vetus cóntinuo meum exércitum protinus óbducam:
inde me ét simul participés omnis meos praéda onerabo atque ópplebo,
metum ét fugam perduéllibus meis me út sciant natum.
éo sum genere gnátus: magna mé facinora décet efficere,
quae póst mihi clara et diú clueant.
sed hunc quém video? quis hic ést qui oculis meis óbviam ignobilis óbicitur?
lubet scíre quid hic veniát cum machaéra et huic, quám rem agat, hinc dabo insídias.

Harpax
Hi lóci sunt atque hae régiones quae mi áb ero sunt demónstratae, ut ego óculis rationém capio quam mi íta dixit erus méus miles,

septumás esse aedis á porta ubi ille hábitet leno, quoí iussit symbólum me ferre et hoc árgentum. nimis vélim, certum qui id míhi faciat,
Ballió leno ubi hic hábitat.

Ps.
St, tace, tace, meus hic est homo, ni omnes di atque homines deserunt.
novo cónsilio nunc míhi opus est,
nova rés subito mi haec óbiectast:
hoc praévortar principio; illa omnia missa habeo, quae ante agere occepi.
iam pol ego hunc stratioticum nuntium advenientem probe percutiam.

Harp.
Óstium pultábo atque intus évocabo aliquém foras.

Ps.
Quisquis es, compendium ego te facere pultandi volo;
nam ego precator et patronus foribus processi foras.

Harp.
Tune es Ballio?

Ps.
Immo vero ego eius sum Subballio.

Harp.
Quid istuc verbist?

Ps.
Condus promus sum, procurator peni.

Harp.
Quasi te dicas atriensem.

Ps.

Immo atriensi ego impero.

Harp.
Quid tu, servon es an liber?

Ps.
Nunc quidem etiam servio.

Harp.
Ita videre, et non videre dignus qui liber sies.

Ps.
Non soles respicere te, quom dicis iniuste alteri?

H.
Hunc hominem malum esse oportet.

P.
Di me servant atque amant,
nam haec mihi incus est: procudam égo hodie hinc multos dolos.

H.
Quid illic secum solus loquitur?

P.
Quid ais tu, adulescens?

H.
Quid est?

Ps.
Esne tu an non es ab illo milite Macedonio,
servos eius qui hinc a nobis est mercatus mulierem,
qui argenti ero meo lenoni quindecim dederat minas,
quinque debet?

Harp.
Sum. sed ubi tu me novisti gentium

aut vidisti aut conlocutu's? nam equidem Athenas antidhac
numquam veni, neque te vidi ante hunc diem umquam oculis meis.

Ps.
Quia videre inde esse; nam olim quom abiit, argento haec dies
praestitutast, quoad referret nobis, neque dum rettulit.

H.
Immo adest.

P.
Tun attulisti?

H.
Egomet.

P.
Quid dubitas dare?

Harp.
Tibi ego dem?

Ps.
Mihi hercle vero, qui res rationesque eri
Ballionis curo, argentum accepto expenso et quoi debet dato.

Harp.
Si quidem hercle etiam supremi promptas thensauros Iovis,
tibi libellam argenti numquam credam.

Ps.
Dum tu sternuas,
res erit soluta.

Harp.
Vinctam potius sic servavero.

Ps.

Vae tibi, tu inventu's vero, meam qui furcilles fidem.
quasi mihi nón sescenta tanta soli soleant credier.

Harp.
Potest ut alii ita arbitrentur et ego ut ne credam tibi.

Ps.
Quasi tu dicas me te velle argento circumducere.

Harp.
Immo vero quasi tu dicas quasique ego autem id suspicer.
sed quid est tibi nomen?

Ps.
Servos est huic lenoni Surus,
eum esse me dicam. Surus sum.

H.
Surus?

P.
Id est nomen mihi.

Harp.
Verba multa facimus. erus si tuos domi est, quin provocas,
ut id agam quod missus huc sum, quidquid est nomen tibi?

Ps.
Si intus esset, evocarem. verum si dare vis mihi,
magis erit solutum, quasi ipsi dederis.

Harp.
At enim scin quid est?
reddere hoc, non perdere erus me misit. nam certo scio,
hoc febrim tibi esse, quia non licet huc inicere ungulas.
ego, nisi ipsi Ballioni, nummum credam nemini.

Ps.

At illic nunc negotiosust: res agitur apud iudicem.

Harp.
Di bene vortant. at ego quando eum esse censebo domi,
rediero. tu epistulam hanc a me accipe atque illi dato.
nam istic sumbolust inter erum meum et tuom de muliere.

Ps.
Scio equidem: ut qui argentum adferret atque expressam imaginem
suam huc ad nos, cum eo aiebat velle mitti mulierem.
nam hic quoque exemplum reliquit eius.

Harp.
Omnem rem tenes.

Ps.
Quid ego ni teneam?

Harp.
Dato istunc sumbolum ergo illi.

P.
Licet.
sed quid est tibi nomen?

Harp.
Harpax.

Ps.
Apage te, Harpax, hau places;
huc quidem hercle haud ibis intro, ne quid ἅρπαξ feceris.

Harp.
Hostis vivos rapere soleo ex acie: eo hoc nomen mihi est.

Ps.
Pol te multo magis opinor vasa ahena ex aedibus.

Harp.
Non ita est. sed scin quid te oro, Sure?

Ps.
Sciam si dixeris.

Harp.
Ego devortor extra portam huc in tabernam tertiam,
apud anum illam doliarem, claudam crassam, Chrysidem.

Ps.
Quid nunc vis?

Harp.
Inde ut me arcessas, erus tuos ubi venerit.

Ps.
Tuo arbitratu, maxume.

Harp.
Nam ut lassus veni de via,
me volo curare.

Ps.
Sane sapis et consilium placet.
sed vide sís ne in quaestione sis, quando arcessam, mihi.

Harp.
Quin ubi prandero, dabo operam somno.

Ps.
Sane censeo.

Harp.
Numquid vis?

Ps.
Dormitum ut abeas.

Harp.
Abeo. —

Ps.
Atque audin, Harpage?
iube sis te operiri: beatus éris, si consudaveris.
di immortales, conservavit me illic homo adventu suo.
suo viatico redduxit me usque ex errore in viam.
nam ipsa mi Opportunitas non potuit opportunius
advenire quam haec allatast mi opportune epistula.
nam haec allata cornu copiaest, ubi inest quidquid volo:
hic doli, hic fallaciae omnes, hic sunt sycophantiae,
hic argentum, híc amica amanti erili filio.
atque ego nunc me ut gloriosum faciam et copi pectore:
quo modo quícque agerem, ut lenoni surruperem mulierculam,
iam instituta ornata cuncta in ordine, animo ut volueram,
certa deformata habebam; sed profecto hoc sic erit:
centum doctum hominum consilia sola haec devincit dea,
Fortuna. atque hoc verum est: proinde ut quisque Fortuna utitur,
ita praecellet atque exinde sapere eum omnes dicimus.
bene ubi quoi scimus consilium áccidisse, hominem catum
eum esse declaramus, stultum autem illum quoi vortit male.
stulti hau scimus, frusta ut simus, quom quid cupienter dari
petimus nobis, quasi quid in rem sit possimus noscere.
certa mittimus, dum incerta petimus; atque hoc evenit
in labore atque in dolore, ut mors obrepat interim.
sed iam satis est philosophatum. nimis diu et longum loquor.
di immortales, aurichalco contra non carum fuit
meum mendacium, hic modo quod subito commentus fui,
quia lenonis me esse dixi. nunc ego hac epistula
tris deludam, erum et lenonem et qui hanc dedit mi epistulam.
euge, par pari aliud autem quod cupiebam contigit:
venit eccum Calidorus, ducit nescio quem secum simul.

Calidorvs
Dulcia atque amara apud te sum elocutus omnia:
scis amorem, scis laborem, scis egestatem meam.

Charinvs
Commemini omnia: id tu modo, me quid vis facere, fac sciam.

Cal.

Quom haec tibi alia sum elocutus, vix rem scis de symbolo.

Char.
Omnia, inquam. tu modo quid me facere vis fac ut sciam.

Cal.

Pseudolus mi ita imperavit, ut aliquem hominem strenuom
benevolentem adducerem ad se.

Char.
Servas imperium probe;
nám et amicum et benevolentem ducis. sed istic Pseudolus
novos mihist.

Cal.

Nimium est mortalis graphicus, †heuretes mihi est.
is mihi haec sese ecfecturum dixit quae dixi tibi.

Ps.
Magnufice hominem compellabo.

Cal.

Quoia vox resonat?

Ps.
Io,
io te te, turanne, te te égo, qui imperitas Pseudolo,
quaero, quoi ter trina tríplicia, tríbus modis tria gaudia,
artibus tribus trís demeritas dem laetitias, de tribus
fraude partas per malitiam et per dolum et fallaciam;
in libello hoc obsignato ad te attuli pauxillulo.

Cal.

Illic homost.

Char.
Vt paratragoedat carnufex.

Ps.
Confer gradum
contra pariter, porge audacter ad salutem bracchium.

Cal.

Dic utrum Spemne an Salutem te salutem, Pseudole?

Ps.
Immo utrumque.

Char.
Vtrumque, salve. sed quid actumst?

Ps.
Quid times?

Cal.

Attuli hunc.

Ps.
Quid, attulisti?

Cal.

Adduxi volui dicere.

Ps.
Quis istic est?

Cal.

Charinus.

Ps.
Euge. iam χάριν τούτῳ ποιοῦ.

Char.
Quin tu si quid opust, mi audacter imperas?

Ps.
Tam gratiast.
bene sit tibi, Charine. nolo tibi molestos esse nos.

Ch.
Vos molestos mihi? molestumst mi id quidem.

P.
Tum igitur mane.

Cal.

Quid istuc est?

Ps.
Epistulam modo hanc íntercepi et sumbolum.

Cal.

Sumbolum? quem sumbolum?

Ps.
Qui a milite allatust modo.
eius servos qui hunc ferebat cum quinque argenti minis,
tuam qui amicam hinc arcessebat, éi os sublevi modo.

Cal.

Quo modo?

Ps.

Horum causa haec agitur spectatorum fabula:
hi sciunt, qui hic adfuerunt; vobis post narravero.

Cal.

Quid nunc agimus?

Ps.
Liberam hodie tuam amicam amplexabere.

Cal.

Egone?

Ps.
Tu istic ipsus, inquam, si quidem hoc vivet caput;
si modo mihi hominem invenietis propere.

Char.
Qua facie?

Ps.
Malum,
callidum, doctum, qui quando principium prehenderit,
porro sua virtute teneat quid se facere oporteat;
atque qui hic non visitatus saepe sit.

Char.
Si servos est,
numquid refert?

Ps.
Immo multo mavolo quam liberum.

Char.
Posse opinor me dare hominem tibi malum et doctum domo,
qui a patre advenit Carysto nec dum exiit ex aedibus
quoquam neque Athenas advenit umquam ante hesternum diem.

Ps.
Bene iuvas. sed quinque inventis opus est argenti minis
mutuis, quas hodie reddam: nam huius mihi debet pater.

Char.
Ego dabo, ne quaere aliunde.

Ps.
O hominem opportunum mihi.
etiam opust chlamyde et machaera et petaso.

Char.
Possum a me dare.

Ps.
Di immortales, non Charinus míhi hic quidem, sed Copiast.
sed istic servos, ex Carysto qui hic adest, ecquid sapit?

Char.
Hircum ab alis.

Ps.
Manuleatam tunicam habere hominem addecet.
ecquid is homo habet aceti in pectore?

Char.
Atque acidissumi.

Ps.
Quid, si opus sít ut dulce promat indidem, ecquid habet?

Ch.
Rogas?
murrinam, passum, defrutum, mellam, mel quoivismodi;
quin in corde instruere quondam coepit pantopolium.

Ps.
Eugepae, lepide, Charine, meo me ludo lamberas.

sed quid nomen esse dicam ego isti servo?

Char.
Simiae.

Ps.
Scitne in re advorsa vorsari?

Char.
Turbo non aeque citust.

Ps.
Ecquid argutust?

Char.
Malorum facinorum saepissime.

Ps.
Quid cum manifesto tenetur?

Char.
Anguillast, elabitur.

Ps.
Ecquid is homo scitust?

Char.
Plebi scitum non est scitius.

Ps.
Probus homo est, ut praedicare te audio.

Char.
Immo si scias,
ubi te aspexerit, narrabit ultro quid sese velis.
sed quid es acturus?

Ps.
Dicam. úbi hominem exornavero,

subditivom fieri ego illum militis servom volo;
sumbolum hunc ferat lenoni cum quinque argenti minis,
mulierem ab lenone abducat: em tibi omnem fabulam.
ceterum quo quicque pacto faciat, ipsi dixero.

Cal.

Quid nunc igitur stamus?

Ps.
Hominem cum ornamentis omnibus
exornatum adducite ad me iam ad trapezitam Aeschinum.
sed properate.

Cal.

Prius illi erimus quam tu. —

Ps.
Abite ergo ocius.
quidquid incerti mi in animo prius aut ambiguom fuit,
nunc liquet, nunc defaecatumst cor mihi; nunc perviumst:
omnes ordine sub signis ducam legiones meas,
avi sinistra, auspicio liquido atque ex mea sententia;
confidentia est inimicos meos me posse perdere.
nunc ibo ad forum atque onerabo meis praeceptis Simiam,
quid agat, ne quid titubet, docte ut hanc ferat fallaciam.
iam égo hoc ipsum oppidum expugnatum faxo erit lenonium.

ACT III.

Pver
Cui servitutem di danunt lenoniam
puero, atque eidem si addunt turpitudinem,
ne illi, quantum ego nunc corde conspicio meo,
malam rem magnam multasque aerumnas danunt.
velut haec mi evenit servitus, ubi ego omnibus
parvis magnisque miseriis praefulcior:
neque ego amatorem mi invenire ullum queo,
qui amet me, ut curer tandem nitidiuscule.
nunc huic lenoni hodie est natalis dies:
interminatus est a minimo ad maximum,
si quis non hodie munus misisset sibi,
eum crás cruciatu maximo perbitere.
nunc nescio hercle rebus quid faciam meis;
neque ego illud possum, quod illi qui possunt solent.
nunc, nisi lenoni munus hodie misero,
cras mihi potandus fructus est fullonius.
eheu, quam illae rei ego etiam nunc sum parvolus.
atque edepol, ut nunc male eúm metuo miser,
si quispiam det qui manus gravior siet,
quamquam illud aiunt magno gemitu fieri,
comprimere dentes videor posse aliquo modo.
sed comprimenda est mihi vox atque oratio:
erus eccum recipit se domum et ducit coquom.

Ballio
Forum coquinum qui vocant, stulte vocant,
nam non coquinum est, verum furinum est forum.
nam ego si iuratus peiorem hominem quaererem
coquom, non potui, quam hunc quem duco, ducere,
multiloquom gloriosum insulsum inutilem.
quin ob eam rem Orcus recipere ad se hunc noluit,
ut esset hic qui mortuis cenam coquat;
nam hic solus illis coquere quod placeat potest.

Cocvs
Si me arbitrabare isto pacto, ut praedicas,
cur conducebas?

Bal.

Inopia: alius non erat.
sed cur sedebas in foro, si eras coquos,
tu solus praeter alios?

Coc.
Ego dicam tibi:
hominum vitio ego sum factus improbior coquos,
non meopte ingenio.

Bal.

Qua istuc ratione?

Coc.
Eloquar.
quia enim, cum extemplo veniunt conductum coquom,
nemo illum quaerit qui optimus et carissimust:
illum conducunt potius qui vilissimust.
hoc ego fui hodie solus obsessor fori.
illi drachmissent miseri: me nemo potest
minoris quisquam nummo ut surgam subigere.
non ego item cenam condio ut alii coqui,
qui mihi condita prata in patinis proferunt,
boves quí convivas faciunt herbasque oggerunt,
eas hérbas herbis aliis porro condiunt:
indunt coriandrum, feniculum, alium, atrum holus,
apponunt rumicem, brassicam, betam, blitum,
eo láserpici libram pondo diluont,
teritur sinapis scelera, quae illis qui terunt
prius quám triverunt oculi ut extillent facit.
ei homines cenas ubi coquont, cum condiunt,
non condimentis condiunt, sed strigibus,

vivis convivis intestina quae exedint.
hoc hic quidem homines tam brevem vitam colunt,
quom hasce herbas huius modi in suom alvom congerunt,
formidulosas dictu, non essu modo.
quas herbas pecudes non edunt, homines edunt.

Bal.

Quid tu? divinis condimentis utere,
qui prorogare vitam possis hominibus,
qui ea culpes condimenta?

Coc.
Audacter dicito;
nam vel ducenos annos poterunt vivere
meas qui éssitabunt escas quas condivero.
nam egó cocilendrum quando in patinas indidi
aut cepolendrum aut maccidem aut secaptidem,
eaepse sese patinae fervefaciunt ilico.
haec ad Neptuni pecudes condimenta sunt:
terrestris pecudes cicimalindro condio,
hapalocopide aut cataractria.

Bal.

At te Iuppiter
dique omnes perdant cum condimentis tuis
cumque tuis istis omnibus mendaciis.

Coc.
Sine sis loqui me.

Bal.

Loquere, atque i in malam crucem.

Coc.
Vbi omnes patinae fervont, omnis aperio:

is odos dimissis manibus in caelum volat.

Bal.

Odos dimissis manibus?

Coc.
Peccavi insciens.

Bal.

Quidum?

Coc.
Dimissis pedibus volui dicere.
eum odorem cenat Iuppiter cottidie.

Bal.

Si nusquam is coctum, quidnam cenat Iuppiter?

Coc.
It incenatus cubitum.

Bal.

I in malam crucem.
istacine causa tibi hodie nummum dabo?

Coc.
Fateór equidem esse me coquom carissumum;
verum pro pretio facio ut opera appareat
mea quo conductus venio.

Bal.

Ad furandum quidem.

Coc.

An tu invenire postulas quemquam coquom
nisi miluinis aut aquilinis ungulis?

Bal.

An tu coquinatum te ire quoquam postulas,
quin ibi constrictis ungulis cenam coquas?
nunc adeo tu, qui meus es, iam edico tibi,
ut nostra properes amoliri ómnia,
tum ut huius oculos in oculis habeas tuis:
quoquo hic spectabit, eo tu spectato simul;
si quo hic gradietur, pariter progredimino;
manum sí protollet, pariter proferto manum:
suom sí quid sumet, id tu sinito sumere;
si nostrum sumet, tu teneto altrinsecus.
si iste ibit, ito, stabit, astato simul;
si conquiniscet istic, conquiniscito.
item his discipulis privos custodes dabo.

Coc.
Habe módo bonum animum.

Bal.

Quaeso, qui possum, doce,
bonum animum habere qui te ad me adducam domum?

Coc.
Quia sorbitione faciam ego hodie te mea,
item ut Medea Peliam concoxit senem,
quem medicamento et suis venenis dicitur
fecisse rursus ex sene adulescentulum,
item ego te faciam.

Bal.

Eho, an etiam es veneficus?

Coc.
Immo edepol vero hóminum servator.

Bal.

Ehem,
quanti istuc unum me †coquinare perdoces?

Coc.
Quid?

Bal.

Vt te servem, ne quid surripias mihi.

Coc.
Si credis, nummo; si non, ne mina quidem.
sed utrum tu amicis hodie an inimicis tuis
daturu's cenam?

Bal.

Pol ego amicis scilicet.

Coc.
Quin tuós inimicos potius quám amicos vocas?
nam ego ita convivis cenam conditam dabo
hodie atque ita suavi suavitate condiam:
ut quisque quicque conditum gustaverit,
ipsus sibi faciam ut digitos praerodat suos.

Bal.

Quaeso hercle, prius quam quoiquam convivae dabis,
gustato tute prius et discipulis dato,
ut praerodatis vostras furtificas manus.

Coc.
Fortasse haec tu nunc mihi non credis quae loquor.

Bal.

Molestus ne sis, nimium iam tinnis; non taces?
em illíc ego habito. íntro abi et cenam coque.
propera.

Pver
Quin tu is accubitum, et convivas cedo,
corrumpitur iam cena. —

Bal.

Em, subolem sis vide:
iam hic quoque scelestus est, coqui sublingulo.
profecto quid nunc primum caveam nescio,
ita in aedibus sunt fures, praedo in proxumo est.
nam mi hic vicinus apud forum paulo prius,
pater Calidori, ópere edixit maxumo,
ut mihi caverem a Pseudolo servo suo,
ne fídem ei haberem. nam eum circum ire in hunc diem,
ut me, si posset, muliere intervorteret;
eum prómisisse firmiter dixit sibi,
sese abducturum a me dolis Phoenicium.
nunc ibo intro atque edicam familiaribus,
profecto ne quis quicquam credat Pseudolo. —

ACT IV.

Psevdolvs
Si umquám quemquam di immórtales voluére esse auxilio ádiutum, tum me ét Calidorum sérvatum volunt ésse et lenonem éxtinctum, quom te ádiutorem génuerunt mihi tám doctum hominem atque ástutum.
sed ubi íllic est? sumne ego homo ínsipiens, qui haec mécum egomet loquar sólus?
dedit vérba mihi hercle, ut opínor:
malus cúm malo stulte cávi.
tum pól ego interii, homo si ílle abiit, neque hoc ópus quod volui hodie éfficiam.
sed eccúm video verberéam statuam: ut it, út magnifice infert sese. ehem, te hércle ego circumspéctabam, nimis métuebam male, ne ábiisses.

Simia
Fuit meum ófficium ut facerém, fateor.

Ps.
Vbi réstiteras?

Sim.
Vbi míhi libitum est.

Ps.
Istúc ... ego sátis scio.

Sim.
Quor érgo quod scis mé rogas?

Ps.
At hóc volo monére te.

Sim.
Monéndus ne me moneas.

Ps.
Nimis tándem ego aps te contémnor.

Sim.
Quippe égo te ni contémnam,
stratióticus homo qui clúear?

Ps.
Iam hoc vólo quod occeptúmst agi.

Sim.
Numquíd agere aliud mé vides?

Ps.
Ámbula ergó cito.

Sim.
Immo ótiosé volo.

Ps.
Haéc ea occásiost: dum ílle dormít, volo
tú prior ut óccupes adire.

Sim.
Quid próperas? placide, né time.
ita ílle faxit Iúppiter,
ut ílle palam ibidem ádsiet,
quisquís illest, qui adest a mílite.
numquam édepol erit illé potior
Harpáx quam ego. habe animúm bonum:
púlchre ego hanc éxplicatám tibi rém dabo.
síc ego illúm dolis átque mendáciis
ín timorém dabo mílitarem ádvenam,
ípsus sese út neget ésse eum quí siet
méque ut esse aútumet qui ípsus est.

Ps.
Quí potest?

Sim.
Occídis me, cum istúc rogitas.

Ps.
O hóminem lepidum.

Sim.
Té quoque etiám dolis átque mendáciis,
quí magistér mihi es, ántidibo, út scias.

Ps.
Iúppiter té mihi sérvet.

Sim.
Immó mihi.
séd vide, ornátus hic me satin cóndecet?

Ps.
Optúme habet.

Sim.
Esto.

Ps.
Tantúm tibi boni di immórtales duint quántum tu tibi óptes;
nam si éxoptem, quantúm dignu's tantúm dent, minus nihiló sit.
néque ego hoc homine quémquam vidi mágis malum et
máleficum.

Sim.
Tun íd mihi?

Ps.
Taceo.
sed egó quae tibi bona dábo et faciam, si hanc sóbrie rem accurássis.

Sim.
Potin út taceas? memorem ímmemorem facit quí monet quod memor

méminit.
teneo, ómnia in pectore cóndita sunt, meditáti sunt mihi dóli docte.

Ps.
Probus ést hic homo.

Sim.
Neque hic ést neque ego.

Ps.
At vide né titubes.

Sim.
Potin út taceas?

Ps.
Ita mé di ament —

Sim.
Ita nón facient: mera iám mendacia fúndes.

Ps.
Vt ego ób tuam, Simia, pérfidiam te amo et métuo et magni fácio.

Sim.
Ego istúc aliis dare cóndidici: mi optrúdere non potes pálpum.

Ps.
Vt ego áccipiam te hodié lepide, ubi efféceris hoc opus,

Sim.
Há ha hae.

Ps.
Lepidó victu, vino, únguentis et intér pocula pulpámentis;
ibidem úna aderit muliér lepida, tibi sávia super savía quae det.

Sim.
Lepide áccipis me.

Ps.
Immo si éfficies, tum fáxo magis id dícas.

Sim.
Nisi effécero, cruciabíliter cárnifex me accipito.
séd propera mihi mónstrare, ubi sit ós lenonis aédium.

Ps.
Tertium hoc est.

Sim.
St, tace, aedes hiscunt.

Ps.
Credo, animo malest
aedibus.

Sim.
Quid iam?

Ps.
Quia edepol ipsum lenonem evomunt.

Sim.
Illicinest?

Ps.
Illic ést.

Sim.
Mala mercist ...

Ps.
Illuc sis vide,
ut transversus, non proversus cedit, quasi cancer solet.

Ballio
Mínus malum hunc hominem esse opinor quam esse censebam

coquom,
nam nihil etiam dum harpagavit praeter cyathum et cantharum.

Ps.
Heus tu, nunc occasio est et tempus.

Sim.
Tecum sentio.

Ps.
Ingredere in viam dolose: ego hic in insidiis ero.

Sim.
Habui numerum sedulo: hoc est sextum a porta proxumum angiportum, in id angiportum me devorti iusserat; quotumas aedis dixerit, id ego admodum incerto scio.

Bal.

Quis hic homo chlamydatus est aut unde est aut quem quaeritat? peregrina facies videtur hominis atque ignobilis.

Sim.
Sed eccum qui ex incerto faciet mihi quod quaero certius.

Bal.

Ad me adit recta. unde ego hominem hunc esse dicam gentium?

Sim.
Heus tu, qui cum hirquina barba stas, responde quod rogo.

Bal.

Eho, an non príus salutas?

Sim.
Nulla est mihi salus dataria.

B.
Nam pol hinc tantumdem accipies.

Ps.
Iam inde a principio probe.

Sim.
Ecquem in angiporto hoc hominem tu novisti? te rogo.

Bal.

Egomet me.

Sim.
Pauci istuc faciunt homines quod tu praedicas,
nam in foro vix decumus quisque est qui ipsus sese noverit.

Ps.
Salvos sum, iam philosophatur.

Sim.
Hominem ego hic quaero malum,
legirupam, impurum, peiurum atque impium.

Bal.

Me quaeritat,
nam illa mea sunt cognomenta; nomen si memoret modo.
quid est ei homini nomen?

Sim.
Leno Ballio.

Bal.

Scivin ego?
ipse ego is sum, adulescens, quem tu quaeris.

Sim.

Tune es Ballio?

Bal.

Ego enim vero is sum.

Sim.
Vt vestitu's, es perfossor parietum.

Bal.

Credo, in tenebris, conspicatus si sis me, apstineas manum.

Sim.
Erus meus tibi me salutem multam voluit dicere.
hanc epistulam accipe a me, hanc mé tibi iussit dare.

Bal.

Quis is homost qui iussit?

Ps.
Perii, nunc homo in medio lutost;
nomen nescit, haeret haec res.

Bal.

Quem hanc misisse ad me autumas?

Sim.
Nosce imaginem: tute eius nomen memorato mihi,
ut sciam te Ballionem esse ipsum.

Bal.

Cedo mi epistulam.

Sim.
Accipe et cognosce signum.

Bal.

Oh, Polymachaeroplagides
purus putus est ipsus. novi. heus, Polymachaeroplagides
nomen est.

Sim.
Scio iám me recte tibi dedisse epistulam,
postquam Polymachaeroplagidem elocutus nomen es.

Bal.

Quid agit is?

Sim.
Quod homo edepol fortis atque bellator probus.
sed propera hanc pellegere quaeso epistulam (ita negotium est),
atque accipere argentum actutum mulieremque emittere.
nam necessést hodie Sicyoni me esse aut cras mortem exsequi,
ita erus meus est imperiosus.

Bal.

Novi, notis praedicas.

Sim.
Propera pellegere épistulam ergo.

Bal.

Id ago, si taceas modo.
milés lenoni Ballioni epistulam
conscriptam mittit Polymachaeroplagides,
imagine obsignatam quae inter nos duo
convenit olim. sumbolust in epistula.
video, et cognosco signum. sed in epistula
nullam salutem mittere scriptam solet?

Sim.
Ita militaris disciplinast, Ballio:
manu salutem mittunt benevolentibus;
eadém malam rem mittunt malevolentibus.
sed, ut occepisti, perge opera experirier
quid epistula ista narret.

Bal.

Ausculta modo.
‘Harpax calator meus est, ad te qui venit—’
tun es is Harpax?

Sim.
Ego sum, atque ipse ἅρπαξ quidem.

Bal.

“Qui epistulam istam fert; ab eo argentum accipi,
cum eo simitu mulierem mitti volo.
salutem scriptam dignum est dignis mittere:
te si arbitrarem dignum, misissem tibi.”

Sim.
Quid nunc?

Bal.

Argentum des, abducas mulierem.

Sim.
Vter remoratur?

Bal.

Quin sequere ergo intro. —

Sim.
Sequor. —

Ps.
Peiorem ego hominem magisque vorsute malum
numquam edepol quemquam vidi, quám hic est Simia;
nimisque égo illum hominem metuo et formido male,
ne malus item erga me sit út erga illum fuit,
ne in re secunda nunc mi obvertat cornua,
si occasionem capsit qui sit mihi malus;
atque edepol equidem nolo, nam illi bene volo.
nunc in metu sum maximo, triplici modo:
primum omnium iam hunc comparem metuo meum,
ne deserat med atque ad hostis transeat;
metuo autem, né erus redeat etiam dum a foro,
ne capta praeda capti praedones fuant.
quom haec metuo, metuo ne ille huc Harpax advenat
prius quam hínc hic Harpax abierit cum muliere.
perii hercle, nimium tarde egrediuntur foras.
cor conligatis vasis expectat meum,
si non educat mulierem secum simul,
ut exulatum ex pectore aufugiat meo.
victor sum, vici cautos custodes meos.

Simia
Ne plora, nescis ut res sit, Phoenicium,
verum haud multo post faxo scibis accubans.
non ego te ad illum duco dentatum virum
Macedoniensem, qui te nunc flentem facit:
cuiam esse te vis maxime, ad eum ducere:
Calidorum haud multo post faxo amplexabere.

Ps.
Quid tu intus quaeso desedisti quam diu?
mihi cor retunsumst oppugnando pectore.

Sim.
Occasionem repperisti, verbero,
ubi perconteris me, insidiis hostilibus?
quin hinc metimur gradibus militariis?

Ps.
Atque edepol, quamquam nequam homo es, recte mones.
ite hac triumphi ad cantharum recta via. —

Ballio
Hahae, nunc demum mi animus in tuto est loco,
postquam iste hinc abiit atque abduxit mulierem.
iube núnc venire Pseudolum, scelerum caput,
et abdúcere a me mulierem fallaciis.
conceptis hercle verbis, satis certo scio,
ego periurare me mavellem miliens,
quam mi illum verba per deridiculum dare.
nunc deridebo hercle hominem, si convenero;
verum in pistrino credo, ut convenit, fore.
nunc ego Simonem mi obviam veniat velim,
ut mea laetitia laetus promiscam siet.

Simo
Viso quid rerum meus Vlixes egerit,
iamne habeat signum ex arce Ballionia.

Bal.

O fortunate, cedo fortunatam manum,

Simo.
Sim.
Quíd est?

Ba.

Iam —

Sim.
Quid iam?

Bal.

Nihil est quod metuas.

Sim.
Quid est?
venitne homo ad te?

Bal.

Non.

Sim.
Quid est igitur boni?

Bal.

Minae viginti sanae et salvae sunt tibi,
hodie quas aps te est instipulatus Pseudolus.

Sim.
Velim quidem hercle.

Bal.

Róga me viginti minas,
si ille hodie ílla sit potitus muliere
sive eam tuo gnato hodie, ut promisit, dabit,
roga opsecro hercle, gestio promittere.
omnibus modis tibi esse rem ut salvam scias;
atque etiam habeto mulierem dono tibi.

Sim.
Nullum periclumst, quod sciam, stipularier,
ut concepisti verba: viginti minas
dabin?

Bal.

Dabuntur.

Sim.
Hoc quidem actumst hau male.
sed convenistin hominem?

Bal.

Immo ambo simul.

Sim.
Quid ait? quid narrat? quaeso, quid dixit tibi?

Bal.

Nugas theatri, verba quae in comoediis
solent lenoni dici, quae pueri sciunt:
malum et scelestum et peiurum aibat esse me.

Sim.
Pol hau mentitust.

Bal.

Ergo haud iratus fui:
nam quanti refert ei nec recte dicere,
qui nihili faciat quique infitias non eat?

Sim.
Quid est? quid non metuam ab eo? id audire expeto.

Bal.

Quia numquam abducet mulierem iam, nec potest,
a me. meministin tibi me dudum dicere,
eam véniisse militi Macedonio?

Sim.
Memini.

Bal.

Em íllius servos húc ad me argentum attulit
et obsignatum sumbolum,

Sim.
Quid postea?

Bal.

Qui inter me atque illum militem convenerat:
is secum abduxit mulierem hau multo prius.

Sim.
Bonan fide istuc dicis?

Bal.

Vnde ea sit mihi?

Sim.
Vide módo, ne illic sit contechnatus quippiam.

Bal.

Epistula atque imago me certum facit;
quin illam quidem iam in Sicyonem ex urbe abduxit modo.

Sim.
Bene hercle factum. quid ego cesso Pseudolum
facere ut det nomen ad molas coloniam?
sed quis hic homo est chlamydatus?

Bal.

Non edepol scio,
nisi ut observemus quó eat aut quam rem gerat.

Harpax
Malus ét nequam est homo quí nihili eri ímperium sui sérvos facit,
nihilíst autem suom qui ófficium facere ímmemor est, nisi est

ádmonitus.
nam quí liberós esse ilicó se arbitrantur,
ex cónspectu erí si suí se abdidérunt,
lúxantur, lustrántur, comedunt quód habent, ei nomén diu sérvitutís ferunt.
néc boni ingeni quícquam in is inest,
nisi ut improbis se artibus teneant. †
cum hís mihi néc locus
nec sérmo convenít neque is úmquam nobilís fui.
ego, ut mi ímperatumst, étsi abest, híc adesse erum árbitror.
núnc ego illum metuo,
quom hic nón adest, ne quom ádsiet métuam. ei rei operám dabo.
nam ín taberna úsque adhuc, sí venirét Syrus,
cui dedi sumbolum, mansi, uti iusserat:
leno ubi esset domi, me aibat arcessere;
vérum ubi is nón venit néc vocat,
venio húc ultro, ut sciam, quíd rei sit, ne illíc homo me ludíficetur.
neque quícquamst melius, quam út hoc pultém atque aliquem évocem hinc íntus.
léno argentum hóc volo
á me accipiat átque amittat múlierem mecúm simul.

Bal.

Heús tu.

Sim.
Quid vis?

Bal.

Híc homo meus est.

Sim.
Quídum?

Bal.

Quia praeda haec meast:
scórtum quaerit, hábet argentum. iam ádmordere hunc míhi lubet.

Sim.
Iamne íllum coméssurus és?

Bal.

Dum recéns est
datór, dum calét, devorári decét iam.
boní me virí pauperánt, improbi aúgent;
popló strenuí, mi improbí usuí sunt.

Sim.
Malúm quod tibí di dabúnt, sic sceléstu's.

Har.
Me nunc commoror, quom has foris non ferio, ut sciam,
sítne Ballió domi.

Bal.

Vénus mi haec bona dat, quom hós huc adigit
lúcrifugas, damnícupidos, qui sé suamque aetatém bene curant,
édunt, bibunt, scortántur: illi súnt alio ingenio átque tu,
quí neque tibi bene ésse patere et íllis quibus est ínvides.

Har.
Heús ubi estis vós?

Bal.

Hic quidem ad me récta habet rectám viam.

H.
Heus ubi estís vos?

B.
Heus adulescens, quid istic debetur tibi?

bene ego ab hoc praedatus ibo; novi, bona scaevast mihi.

Har.
Ecquis hoc áperit?

Bal.

Heus chlamydate, quid istic debetur tibi?

Har.
Aedium dominum lenonem Ballionem quaerito.

Bal.

Quisquis es, adulescens, operam fac compendi quaerere.

Har.
Quid iam?

Bal.

Quia tute ipsus ipsum praesens praesentem vides.

Har.
Tune is es?

Sim.
Chlamydate, cáve sis tibi a curvo infortunio
atque in hunc intende digitum: hic leno est.

Bal.

At hic est vir bonus.
sed, tu, bone vir, flagitare saepe clamore in foro,
quom libella nusquamst, nisi quid leno hic subvenit tibi.

Har.
Quin tu mecum fabulare?

Bal.

Fabulor. quid vis tibi?

Har.
Argentum accipias.
BAL.

Iamdudum, si des, porrexi manum.

Har.
Accipe: hic sunt quinque argenti lectae numeratae minae.
hoc tibi erus me iussit ferre Polymachaeroplagides,
quod deberet, atque ut mecum mitteres Phoenicium.

Bal.

Erus tuos —

Har.
Ita dico.

Bal.

Miles —

Har.
Ita loquor.

Bal.

Macedonius —

Har.
Admodum, inquam.

Bal.

Te ad me misit Polymachaeroplagides?

Har.
Vera memoras.

Bal.

Hoc argentum ut mihi dares?

Har.
Si tu quidem es
leno Ballio.
BAL.

Atque ut a me mulierem tu abduceres?

H.
Ita.

B.
Phoenicium esse dixit?

H.
Recte meministi.

B.
Mane.
iam redeo ad te.

Har.
At maturate propera, nam propero: vides
iam diem multum esse.

Bal.

Video: hunc advocare etiam volo;
mane modo istic, iam revertar ad te. quid nunc fit, Simo?
quid agimus? manufesto hunc hominem teneo, qui argentum attulit.

Sim.
Quidum?

BAL.

An nescis quae sit haec res?

Sim.
Iuxta cum ignarissimis.

Bal.

Pseudolus tuos allegavit hunc, quasi a Macedonio
milite esset.

Sim.
Haben argentum ab homine?

Bal.

Rogitas quod vides?

Sim.
Heus, memento ergo dimidium istinc mihi de praeda dare:
commune istuc esse oportet.

Bal.

Quid, malum? id totum tuom est.

Har.
Quam mox mi operam das?

Bal.

Tibi do equidem. quid nunc mi es auctor, Simo?

Sim.
Exploratorem hunc faciamus ludos suppositicium,
adeo donicum ipsus sese ludos fieri senserit.

Bal.

Sequere. quid ais? nempe tu illíus servos es?

Har.
Planissume.

Bal.

Quanti te emit?

Har.
Suarum in pugna virium victoria.
nám ego eram domi imperator summus in patria mea.

Bal.

An etiam umquam ille expugnavit carcerem, patriam tuam?

Har.
Contumeliam si dices, audies.

Bal.

Quotumo die
ex Sicyone huc pervenisti?

Har.
Altero ad meridie.

Bal.

Strenue mehercle iisti.

Sim.
Quamvis pernix híc est homo:
ubi suram aspicias, scias pósse eum — gerere crassas compedes.

Bal.

Quid ais? tune etiam cubitare solitu's in cunis puer?

Sim.
Scilicet.

Bal.

Etiamne facere solitus es — scin quid loquar?

Sim.
Scilicet solitum esse.

Har.
Sanine estis?

Bal.

Quíd hoc quod te rogo?
noctu in vigiliam quando ibat miles, quom tu ibas simul,
conveniebatne in vaginam tuam machaera militis?

Har.
I in malam crucem.

Bal.

Ire licebit tamen tibi hodie temperi.

Har.
Quin tu mulierem mi emittis, aut redde argentum.

Bal.

Mane.

Har.
Quid maneam?

Bal.

Chlamydem hanc commemora quanti conductast.

Har.
Quid est?

Sim.
Quid meret machaera?

Har.
Elleborum hisce hóminibus opus ést.

Bal.

Eho.

Har.
Mitte.

Bal.

Quid mercedis petasus hodie domino demeret?

Har.
Quid domino? quid somniatis? mea quidem haec habeo omnia,
meo peculio empta.

Bal.

Nempe quod fémina summa sustinent.

Har.
Vncti hi sunt senes, fricari sese ex antiquo volunt.

Bal.

Responde, opsecro hercle, vero serio hoc quod te rogo:
quid meres? quantillo argento te conduxit Pseudolus?

Har.
Quis istic Pseudolust?
BAL.

Praeceptor tuos, qui te hanc fallaciam
docuit, ut fallaciis hinc mulierem a me abduceres.

Har.
Quem tu Pseudolum, quas tu mihi praedicas fallacias?
quem égo hominem † nullius coloris novi.

Bal.

Non tu istinc abis?
nihil est hodie hic sucophantis quaestus: proin tu Pseudolo
nunties abduxisse alium praedam, qui occurrit prior

Harpax.
Har.
Is quidem edepol Harpax ego sum.

Bal.

Immo edepol esse vis.
purus putus hic sucophanta est.

Har.
Ego tibi argentum dedi
et dudum, adveniens extemplo, sumbolum servo tuo,
eri imágine obsignatam epistulam, hic ante ostium.

Bal.

Meo tu epistulam dedisti servo? quoi servo?

Har.
Suro.

Bal.

Non confidit sycophanta hic nequam est nugis: meditatus malest.
edepol hominem verberonem Pseudolum, ut docte dolum
commentust: tantundem argenti quantum miles debuit

dedit huic atque hominem exornavit, mulierem qui abduceret.
nam illam epistulam ipsus verus Harpax huc ad me attulit.

Har.
Harpax ego vocor, ego servos sum Macedonis militis;
ego nec sycophantiose quicquam ago nec malefice,
neque istum Pseudolum mortalis qui sit novi neque scio.

Sim.
Tu, nisi mirumst, leno, plane perdidisti mulierem.

Bal.

Edepol ne istuc magis magisque metuo, quom verba audio.
mihi quoque edepol iamdudum ille Surus cor perfrigefacit,
sumbolum qui ab hoc accepit. mira sunt ni Pseudolust.
eho tu, qua facie fuit, dúdum quoi dedisti sumbolum?

Har.
Rufus quidam, ventriosus, crassis suris, subniger,
magno capite, acutis oculis, ore rubicundo, admodum
magnis pedibus.

Bal.

Perdidisti, postquam dixisti pedes.
Pseudolus fuit ipsus. actumst de me. iam morior, Simo.

Har.
Hercle te hau sinam emoriri, nisi mi argentum redditur,
viginti minae.

Sim.
Atque etiam mihi aliae viginti minae.

Bal.

Auferen tu id praemium a me, quod promisi per iocum?

Sim.
De improbis viris auferri praemium et praedam decet.

Bal.

Saltem Pseudolum mihi dedas.

Sim.
Pseudolum ego dedam tibi?
quid deliquit? dixin, ab eo tibi ut caveres, centiens?

Bal.

Perdidit me.

Sim.
At me viginti modicis multavit minis.

Bal.

Quid nunc faciam?

Har.
Si mi argentum dederis, te suspendito.

Bal.

Di te perdant. sequere sis me ergo hac ad fórum, ut solvam.

Har.
Sequor.

Sim.
Quid ego?

Bal.

Peregrinos absolvam, cras agam cum civibus.
Pseudolus mihi centuriata hábuit capitis comitia,

qui illum ad mé hodie adlegavit, mulierem qui abduceret.
sequere tu. nunc ne expectetis, dum hac domum redeam via;
ita res gestast: angiporta haec certum est consectarier.

Har.
Si graderere tantum quantum loquere, iam esses ad forum. —

Bal.

Certumst mi hunc emortualem facere ex natali die. —

Sim.
Bene ego illum tetigi, bene autem servos inimicum suom.
nunc mihi certum est alio pacto Pseudolo insidias dare,
quam in aliis comoediis fit, ubi cum stimulis aut flagris
insidiantur: at ego iam intus promam viginti minas,
quas promisi si effecisset; obviam ei ultro deferam.
nimis illic mortalis doctus, nimis vorsutus, nimis malus;
superavit dolum Troianum átque Vlixem Pseudolus.
nunc ibo intro, argentum promam, Pseudolo insidias dabo. —

ACT V.

Psevdolvs
Quid hóc? sicine hóc fit, pedés? statin án non?
an íd voltis, út me hinc iacéntem aliquis tóllat?
nam hércle si cécidero, véstrum erit flagítium.
pérgitin pérgere? ah, sérviendúm mihi
hodie ést; magnum hoc vitiúm vino est:
pedés captat prímum, luctátor dolósust.
profécto edepol égo nunc probe habeo madúlsam:
ita víctu excurato, íta magnis mundítiis et dis dígnis,
itaque ín loco festivó sumus festíve accepti.
quid opúst me multas agere ámbages? hoc
est hómini quam ob rem vítam amet,
hic ómnes voluptatés, in hoc omnés venustatés sunt:
deis próximum esse árbitror.
nam úbi amans complexúst amantem, úbi ad labra labélla adiungit,
úbi alter alterúm bilingui mánifesto inter sé prehendunt,
ubi mámmam mammicula ópprimit aut, si lúbet, corpora
condúplicantur,
manu cándida cantharum dúlciferum propínat amicissíma amico:
ibi iám neque esse alium alii ódiosum
nec mólestum nec sermónibus morologís uti,
unguénta atque odóres, lemníscos, coróllas
darí dapsilés, non ením parce prómi
(victúm ceterum ne quís me roget):
hóc ego modo átque erus minor húnc diem súmpsimus prothyme,
póstquam opus meum ómne ut volui pérpetravi hóstibus fugatis.
illós accubántis, potántis, amántis
cum scórtis relíqui, et meúm scortum ibídem,
suó cordi atque ánimo opsequéntes. sed póstquam
exúrrexi, oránt med ut sáltem.
ad hunc me modum intuli illis satis facete,
nimis ex discipulina, quippe ego qui
probe Ionica perdidici. sed palliolatim amictus
sic haec incessi ludibundus.

plaudúnt et ‘parúm’ clamitánt mi, ut revértar.
óccepi dénuo, hóc modo: nólui
ídem; amicaé dabam mé meae,
út me amarét: ubi círcumvortór, cado:
id fúit naenia lúdo.
ítaque dum enitór, prox, iam paene ínquinavi pállium.
nímiae tum volúptati edepol
fúi ob casúm. datur cántharus: bibi.
commúto ilicó pallium, íllud posívi;
inde húc exií, crapulám dum amovérem.
núnc ab ero ad erum méum maiorem vénio foedus cómmemoratum.
áperite, aperite, heús, Simoni mé adesse aliquis núntiate.

Simo
Vóx viri péssumi me éxciet foras.
séd quid hoc? quó modo? quíd video ego?

Ps.
Cúm corona ébrium Pseúdolum tuom.

Sim.
Líbere hercle hóc quidem. séd vide statum.
núm mea grátia pértimescít magis?
cógito, saéviter blanditerne ádloquar.
sed me hóc votat vim fácere nunc
quód fero, sí qua in hoc spés sitast mihi.

Ps.
Vír malus viro óptumo obviam it.

Sim.
Dí te ament, Pseúdole. fú i in malám crucem.

Ps.
Cur égo adflictor?

Sim.
Quid tú, malum, in os igitúr mi ebrius inrúctas?

Ps.
Mólliter síc tene mé, cave né cadam:
non vídes me ut madide mádeam?

Sim.
Quae ístaec audáciast, té sic intérdius
cúm corolla ébrium incédere?

Ps.
Lubet.

Sim.
Quíd, lubet? pérgin ructáre in os mihi?

Ps.
Suávis ructús mihi est. síc sine, Simo.

Sim.
Credo équidem potesse té, scelus,
Mássici móntis ubérrumos quáttuor
frúctus ebíbere in hora úna.

Ps.
Hiberna áddito.

Sim.
Hau mále mones, sed díc tamen,
únde onustám celocem ágere te praédicem?

Ps.
Cúm tuo fílio pérpotaví modo.
séd, Simo, ut probe táctus Ballio est!
quaé tibi díxi, ut effécta reddidi!

Sim.
Péssumu's homo.

Ps.

Mulier haec facit.
cúm tuo fílio líbera accubat.

Sim.
Ómnia, ut quícque egisti, órdine scio.

Ps.
Quíd ergo dubitas dáre mi argentum?

Sim.
Iús petis, fateór. tene.

Ps.
Át negabás daturum ésse te mihi.
onera húnc hominem atque me cónsequere hac.

Sim.
Egone ístum onerém?

Ps.
Onerábis, scio.

Sim.
Quid ego huíc homini faciám? satin ultro et argéntum aufert et me ínridet?

Ps.
Vae víctis.

Sim.
Vorte ergo úmerum.

Ps.
Em.

Sim.
Hóc ego numquam rátus sum
fore me, út tibi fierem súpplex.

heu heú heu.

Ps.
Desine.

Sim.
Dóleo.

Ps.
Ni doléres tu, ego dolérem.

Sim.
Quid? hoc aúferen, Pseudole mi, aps tuo ero?

Ps.
Lubentíssimo corde atque ánimo.

Sim.
Non aúdes, quaeso, aliquám partem mihi grátiam facere hinc árgenti?

Ps.
Non: mé dices avidum ésse hominem nam hinc númquam eris nummo dívitior;
neque té mei tergi mísereret, si hoc nón hodie ecfecíssem.

Sim.
Erit úbi te ulciscar, sí vivo.

Ps.
Quid mínitare? habeo térgum.

Sim.
Age sáne igitur.

Ps.
Redi.

Sim.
Quíd redeam?

Ps.
Redi módo: non eris decéptus.

Sim.
Redeó.

Ps.
Simul mecum i pótatum.

Sim.
Egone éam?

Ps.
Fac quod te iúbeo:
si is, aút dimidium aut plús etiam faxo hínc feres.

Sim.
Eo, duc mé quo vis.

Ps.
Quid núnc? numquid íratus és aut mihi aút filió propter hás res,
Simó?

Sim.
Nil profécto.

Ps.
I hac.

Bal.

Té sequor. quín vocas spéctatorés simul?

Ps.
Hércle me isti haú solent
vocáre, neque ergo ego ístos;
vérum si vóltis adplaúdere atque ádprobare
húnc gregem et fábulam,

in crástinum vos vocábo.

RUDENS

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PROLOGVS

Arctvrvs
Qui gentes omnes mariaque et terras movet,
eius sum civis civitate caelitum.
ita sum, ut videtis, splendens stella candida,
signum quod semper tempore exoritur suo
hic atque in caelo: nomen Arcturo est mihi.
noctu sum in caelo clarus atque inter deos,
inter mortalis ambuló interdius.
at alia signa de caelo ad terram accidunt.
qui est imperator divom atque hominum Iuppiter,
is nos per gentis alium ália disparat,
qui facta hominum, mores, pietatem et fidem
noscamus, ut quemque adiuvet opulentia.
qui falsas litis falsis testimoniis
petunt quique in iure abiurant pecuniam,
eorúm referimus nomina exscripta ad Iovem;
cotidie ille scit quis hic quaerat malum:
qui hic litem apisci postulant peiurio
mali, res falsas qui impetrant apud iudicem,
iterum ille eam rem iudicatam iudicat;
maiore multa multat quam litem auferunt.
bonos in aliis tabulis exscriptos habet.
atque hoc scelesti in animum inducunt suom,
Iovem sé placare posse donis, hostiis:
et operam et sumptum perdunt; id eo fit quia
nihil éi acceptumst a periuris supplici;
facilius si qui pius est a dis supplicans,
quam qui scelestust, inveniet veniam sibi.
idcirco moneo vos ego haec, qui estis boni
quique aetatem agitis cum pietate et cum fide:
...
retinete porro, post factum ut laetemini.
nunc, huc qua causa veni, argumentum eloquar.
primumdum huic esse nomen urbi Diphilus

Cyrenas voluit. illic habitat Daemones
in agro atque villa proxima propter mare,
senex, qui húc Athenis exul venit, hau malus;
neque is adeo propter malitiam patria caret,
sed dum alios servat se impedivit interim,
rem bene paratam comitate perdidit.
huíc filiola virgo periit parvola.
eam dé praedone vir mercatur pessumus,
is eam huc Cyrenas leno advexit virginem.
adulescens quidam civis huius Atticus
eam vídit ire e ludo fidicinio domum,
amare occepit: ad lenonem devenit,
minis triginta sibi puellam destinat
datque arrabonem et iure iurando alligat.
is leno, ut se aequom est, flocci non fecit fidem
neque quod iuratus adulescenti dixerat.
eí erat hospes par sui, Siculus senex
scelestus, Agrigentinus, urbis proditor;
is illius laudare infit formam virginis
et aliarum itidem quae eius erant mulierculae.
infit lenoni suadere, ut secum simul
eat in Siciliam: ibi esse homines voluptários
dicit, potesse íbi eum fieri divitem.
ibi esse quaestum maximum meretricibus.
persuadet. navis clanculum conducitur,
quidquid erat noctu in navem comportat domo
leno; adulescenti qui puellam ab eo emerat
ait sése Veneri velle votum solvere
(id hic est Veneris fanum) et eo ad prandium
vocavit adulescentem huc. ipse hinc ilico
conscendit navem, ávehit meretriculas.
adulescenti alii narrant ut res gesta sit,
lenonem abiisse. ad portum ádulescens venit:
illorum navis longe in altum abscesserat.
ego quoniam video virginem asportarier,
tetuli éi auxilium et lenoni exitium simul:
increpui hibernum et fluctus movi maritimos.

nam Arcturus signum sum omniúm acerrimum:
vehemens sum exoriens, cum occido vehementior.
nunc ambo in saxo, leno átque hospes, simul
sedent eiecti: navis confracta est eis.
illa autem virgo atque altera itidem ancillula
de navi timidae desuluerunt in scapham.
nunc eas ab saxo fluctus ad terram ferunt
ad villam illius, exul ubi habitat senex,
cuius déturbavit ventus tectum et tegulas;
et servos illic est éius, qui egreditur foras.
adulescens huc iam adveniet, quem videbitis,
qui illam mercatust de lenone virginem.
valete, ut hostes vestri diffidant sibi. —

ACT I.

Sceparnio
Pro di immortales, tempestatem cuius modi
Neptunus nobis nocte hac misit proxima.
detexit ventus villam — quid verbis opust?
non ventus fuit, verum Álcumena Euripidi,
ita omnís de tecto deturbavit tegulas;
inlustrioris fecit fenestrasque indidit.

Plesidippvs
Et vos a vestris abduxi negotiis
neque id processit qua vos duxi gratia,
neque quivi ad portum lenonem prehendere.
sed mea desidia spem deserere nolui:
eo vós, amici, detinui diutius.
nunc huc ad Veneris fanum venio visere,
ubi rem divinam se facturum dixerat.

Scep.
Si sapiam, hoc quod me mactat concinnem lutum.

Ples.
Prope me hic nescio quis loquitur.

Daemones
Heus, Sceparnio.

Scep.
Qui nominat me?

Daem.
Qui pro te argentum dedit.

Scep.
Quasi me tuom esse servom dicas, Daemones.

Daem.
Luto usust multo, multam terram confode.
villam integundam intellego totam mihi,
nam nunc perlucet ea quam cribrum crebrius.

Ples.
Pater salveto, ámboque adeo.

Daem.
Salvos sis.

Scep.
Sed utrum tu masne an femina es, qui illum patrem
voces?

Pl.
Vir sum equidem.

Sc.
Quaere vir porro patrem.

Daem.
Filiolam ego unam hábui, eam unam perdidi.
virile sexus numquam ullum habui.

Ples.
At di dabunt.

Scep.
Tibi quidem hercle, quisquis es, magnum malum,
qui oratione nos hic occupatos occupes.

Ples.
Isticine vos habitatis?

Scep.
Quid tu id quaeritas?
quon furatum mox venias, vestigas loca?

Ples.
Peculiosum esse addecet servom et probum,
quem ero praesente † praetereat oratio
aut qui inclementer dicat homini libero.

Scep.
Et impudicum et impudentem hominem addecet
molestum ultro advenire ad alienam domum,
cui debeatur nil.

Daem.
Tace, Sceparnio.
quid opust, adulescens?

Ples.
Istic infortunium,
qui praefestinet, ubi erus adsit, praeloqui.
sed nisi molestumst, paucis percontarier
volo ego ex te.

Daem.
Dabitur opera, atque in negotio.

Scep.
Quin tu in paludem is exicasque harundinem,
qui pertegamus villam, dum sudumst?

Daem.
Tace.
tu si quid opus est dice.

Ples.
Dic quod te rogo,
ecquem tu hic hominem crispum, incanum videris,
malum, periurum, palpatorem —

Daem.
Plurimos,

nam ego propter eius modi viros vivo miser.

Ples.
Hic dico, in fanum Veneris qui mulierculas
duas sécum adduxit, quique adornaret sibi
ut rem divinam faciat, aut hodie aut heri.

Daem.
Non hercle, adulescens, iam hos dies complusculos
quemquam istic vidi sacruficare, neque potest
clam me esse si qui sacruficat: semper petunt
aquam hinc aut ignem aut vascula aut cultrum aut veru
aut aulam extarem, aut aliquid — quid verbis opust?
Veneri paravi vasa et puteum, non mihi.
nunc intervallum iam hos dies multos fuit.

Ples.
Vt verba praehibes, me periisse praedicas.

Daem.
Mea quidem hercle causa salvos sis licet.

Scep.
Heus tu, qui fana ventris causa circumis,
iubere meliust prandium ornari domi.

Daem.
Fortasse tu huc vocatus es ad prandium,
ille quí vocavit nullus venit?

Ples.
Admodum.

Scep.
Nullumst periclum te hinc ire inpransum domum:
Cererem te meliust quam Venerem sectarier:
amori haec curat; tritico curat Ceres.

Ples.
Deludificavit me illic homo indignis modis.

Daem.
Pro di immortales, quid illuc est, Sceparnio,
hominum secundum litus?

Scep.
Vt mea est opinio,
propter viam illi sunt vocati ad prandium.

Daem.
Qui?

Scep.
Quia post cenam, credo, laverunt heri.

Daem.
Confracta navis in mari est illis.

Scep.
Ita est.
at hercle nobis villa in terra et tegulae.

Daem.
Hui,
homunculi quanti estis. eiecti ut natant.

Ples.
Vbi sunt i homines, obsecro?

Daem.
Hac ad dexteram
(viden?) secundum litus.

Ples.
Video. sequimini.
utinam is sit quém ego quaero, vir sacerrimus.

valete. —

Scep.
Si non moneas, nosmet meminimus.
sed, o Palaemon, sancte Neptuni comes,
qui Herculis socius esse diceris,†
quod facinus video.

Daem.
Quid vides?

Scep.

Mulierculas
video sedentis in scapha solas duas.
ut adflictantur miserae. euge euge, perbene,
ab saxo avortit fluctus ad litus scapham,
nequé gubernator umquam potuit rectius.
non vidisse undas me maioris censeo.
salvae sunt, si illos fluctus devitaverint.
nunc, nunc periclumst. unda eiecit alteram.
at in vadost, iam facile enabit. eugepae,
viden alteram illam ut fluctus eiecit foras?
surrexit, horsum se capessit. salva res.
desiluit haec autem altera in terram e scapha.
ut prae timore in genua in undas concidit.
salvast, evasit ex aqua. iam in litore est.
sed dextrovorsum avorsa it in malam crucem.
hem, errabit illaec hodie.

Daem.
Quid id refert tua?

Scep.
Si ad saxum quo capessit, ea deorsum cadit,
errationis fecerit compendium.

Daem.

Si tu de illarum cenaturus vesperi es,
illis curandum censeo, Sceparnio,
si apud me essurus, mihi darí operam volo.

Scep.
Bonum aequomque oras.

Daem.
Sequere me hac ergo. —

Scep.
Sequor. —

Palaestra
Nimio hóminum fortunaé minus miseraé memorantur,
... experiundo iis datur acerbum.
... hoc deo cómplacitumst, me hoc órnatu ornatam ín incertas
regiónes timidam eiéctam.
hancíne ego ad rem natam ésse me miserám memorábo?
hancíne ego partem cápio ob píetatem praecípuam?
nam hóc mi haud labórist, labórem hunc potíri,
si érga paréntem aut deós me impiávi;
sed íd si paráte curávi ut cavérem,
tum hóc mi indecóre, iníque, inmodéste
datis, dí; nam quid habebúnt sibi signi ímpii posthac,
si ad húnc modum est innóxiis honór apud vos?
nam mé si sciam ín vos fecísse aut paréntis
scelésteminus me míserer;
sed eríle scelus me sóllicitat, eiús me impietas mále habet.
ís navem atque ómnia pérdidit ín mari:
haéc bonorum éius sunt réliquiae; étiam quae simul
vécta mecum ín scaphast, éxcidit. égo nunc sola sum.
quaé mihi sí foret sálva saltém, labor
lénior ésset hic mi éius opera.
nunc quám spem aut opem aút consilí quid capéssam?
ita híc sola sólis locis compotita sum.
hic sáxa sunt, hic máre sonat,

neque quísquam homo mihi obviám venit.
...
hóc quod indúta sum, summae opes óppido,
néc cibo néc loco técta quo sím scio:
quaé mihist spés, qua me vívere velim?
néc loci gnára sum, néc vidi aut híc fui.
sáltem aliquém velim quí mihi ex hís locis
aút viam aut sémitam mónstret, ita nunc
hác an illác eam, incérta sum cónsili;
néc prope usquam híc quidem cúltum agrum cónspicor.
álgor, errór, pavor, me ómnia tenent.
haéc parentés mei haud scítis miseri,
me núnc miseram esse ita utí sum.
líbera ego prognáta fui máxume, nequíquam fui.
nunc quí minus servio, quám si servá forem náta?
neque quícquam umquam illis prófuit qui mé sibi eduxérunt.

Ampelisca
Quid míhi meliust, quid mágis in remst, quam a córpore vitam ut sécludam?
ita mále vivo atque ita míhi multae in pectóre sunt curae exánimales.
ita rés se habent: vitae haú parco, perdidí spem qua me obléctabam.
omnía iam circumcúrsavi atque omníbus latebris perréptavi
quaerére conservam, vóce oculis auríbus ut pervestígarem.
neque eam úsquam invenio néque quo eam neque quá quaeram consúltumst,
neque quém rogitem respónsorem quemquam ínterea convénio,
neque mágis solae terraé solae sunt quam haéc loca atque hae regiónes;
neque sí vivit, eam víva umquam quin ínveniam desístam.

Pal.
Quóianam vox míhi prope hic sonat?

Amp.
Pértimui, quis híc loquitur prope?

Pal.
Spés bona, obsecro, súbventa mihi,
éxime ex hóc miseram metu.

Amp.
Cérto vox múliebris aúris tetigít meas.

Pal.
Múlier est, múliebris vóx mi ad aurís venit.
num Ámpelisca óbsecro est?

Amp.
Tén, Palaestra, aúdio?

Pal.
Quín voco, ut me aúdiat, nómine illám suo?

Ámpelisca.
Amp.
Hém quis est?

Pal.
Ego, Palaestra ...

Amp.
Díc ubi es?

Pal.
Pól ego nunc ín malis plúrimis.

Amp.
Sócia sum, néc minor párs meast quam tua.
séd videre éxpeto té.

Pal.
Mihi es aémula.

Amp.

Cónsequamúr gradu vócem. ubi es?

Pal.
Écce me.
áccede ad me átque adi cóntra.

Amp.
Fit sédulo.

Pal.
Cédo manum.

Amp.
Áccipe.

Pal.
Díc, vivisne? óbsecro.

Amp.
Tú facis mé quidem ut vívere núnc velim,
quóm mihi té licet tángere. ut víx mihi
crédo ego hoc, té tenere. óbsecro, ampléctere,
spés mea. ut me ómnium iám laborúm levas.

Pal.
Óccupas praéloqui quaé mea orátiost.
núnc abire hínc decet nós.

Amp.
Quo, amabo, íbimus?

Pal.
Lítus hoc pérsequamúr.

Amp.
Sequor quó lubet.
sícine hic cum úvida véste grassábimur?

Pal.
Hóc quod est, íd necessárium est pérpeti.
séd quid hoc, óbsecro, est?

Am.
Quid?

Pa.
Víden, amabo,
fanum videsne hóc?

Amp.
Vbi est?

Pal.
Ad déxteram.

Amp.
Videó decorum dís locum vidérier.

Pal.
Haud lónge abesse opórtet homines hínc, ita hic lepidúst locus.
quísquis est deus, véneror ut nos éx hac aerumna éximat,
míseras inopis aérumnosas út aliquo auxilio ádiuvet.

Ptolemocratia
Qui súnt qui a patróna precés mea expetéssunt?
nam vóx me precántum huc forás excitávit.
bonam átque obsequéntem deam átque haud gravátam
patrónam exsequontur benígnamque múltum.

Pal.
Iubémus te sálvere, máter.

Ptol.
Salvéte,
puéllae. sed únde
vos íre cum uvida veste dicam, óbsecro, tam maéstiter vestítas?

Pal.
Ílico hinc ímus, haud lóngule ex hóc loco;
vérum longe hínc abest únde advectae húc sumus.

Ptol.
Némpe equo lígneo pér vias caérulas
éstis vectae?

Pal.
Ádmodum.

Ptol.
Ergo aéquius vós erat
cándidatás venire hóstiatásque. ad hoc
fánum ad istúnc modum nón venirí solet.

Pal.
Quaéne eiectae é mari símus ambae, óbsecro,
únde nos hóstias agere voluisti huc?
núnc tibi ampléctimur génua egentés opum,
quae ín locis nésciis néscia spé sumus,
út tuo récipias técto servésque nos
míseriarúmque te ambárum uti mísereat,
quibús nec locúst ullus néc spes parata,
neque hóc ampliús, quam quod vidés, nobis quícquamst.

Ptol.
Manús mihi date, éxurgite á genibus ámbae.
miséricordiór nulla me ést feminárum.
sed haéc pauperés res sunt inopesque, puellae:
egomét meam vix vitám colo; Venerí cibo meo sérvio.

Amp.
Venerís fanum, obsecro, hóc est?

Ptol.
Fateór. ego huius fáni sacérdos clueo.
verúm, quidquid ést, comitér fiet á me,

quo núnc copia valebit.
ite hác mecum.

Pal.
Amíce benígneque honórem,
matér, nostrum habés. —

Ptol.
Oportet. —

ACT II.

Piscatores
Omníbus modis qui paúperes sunt hómines miseri vívont,
praesertim quibus nec quaestus est, nec didicere artem ullam:
necessitate quidquid est domi id sat est habendum.
nos iam de ornatu propemodum ut locupletes simus scitis:
hisce hami atque haec harundines sunt nobis quaestu et cultu.
... ex urbe ad mare huc prodimus pabulatum:
pro exercitu gymnastico et palaestrico hoc habemus;
echinos, lopadas, ostreas, balanos captamus, conchas,
marinam urticam, musculos, plagusias striatas;
post id piscatum hamatilem et saxatilem aggredimur.
cibum captamus e mari: si eventus non evenit
neque quicquam captumst piscium, salsi lautique pure
domum redimus clanculum, dormimus incenati.
atque ut nunc valide fluctuat mare, nulla nobis spes est:
nisi quid conclarum capsimus, incenati sumus profecto.
nunc Venerem hanc veneremur bonam, ut nos lepide adiuerit hodie.

Trachalio
Animum adversavi sedulo, ne erum usquam praeterirem;
nam cum modo exibat foras, ad portum se aibat ire,
me huc obviam iussit sibi venire ad Veneris fanum.
sed quos perconter commode eccos video astare. adibo.
salvete, fures maritimi, conchitae atque hamiotae,
famelica hominum natio. quid agitis? ut peritis?

Pisc.
Vt piscatorem aequomst, fame sitique speque ...

Trach.
... ecquem adulescentem
huc, dum hic astatis, strenua facie rubicundum fortem,
qui tres secum homines duceret chlamydatos cum machaeris,
vidistis vos venire ... ? ...

Pisc.
Nullum istac facie ut praedicas venisse huc scimus.

Trach.

Ecquem
recalvom ac silanum senem, statutum, ventriosum,
tortis superciliis, contracta fronte, fraudulentum,
deorum ódium atque hominum, málum, mali viti probrique plenum,
qui duceret mulierculas duas sécum satis venustas?

Pisc.
Cum istius modi virtutibus operisque natus qui sit,
eum quídem ad carnificem est aequius quam ad Venerem commeare.

Trach.
At si vidistis, dicite.

Pisc.
Huc profecto nullus venit.
vale. —

Trach.
Valete. credidi: factum est quod suspicabar,
data verba ero sunt, leno abit scelestus exulatum,
in navem ascendit, mulieres avexit: hariolus sum.
is huc erum etiam ad prandium vocavit, sceleris semen.
nunc quid mihi meliust, quam ilico hic opperiar erum dum veniat?
eadém, sacerdos Veneria haec sí quid amplius scit,
si videro, exquisivero: faciet me certiorem.

Ampelisca
Intellego: hanc quae proxuma est víllam Veneris fano
pulsare iussisti atque aquam rogare.

Trach.
Cuia ad auris

vox mi advolavit?

Amp.
Obsecro, quis hic loquitur? quém ego video?

Tr.
Estne Ampelisca haec quae foras e fano egreditur?

Am.
Estne hic
Trachalio, quem conspicor, calator Plesidippi?

Trach.
East.

Amp.
Is est. Trachalio, salve.

Trach.
Salve, Ampelisca.
quid agis tu?

Amp.
Aétatem haud malam male.

Trach.
Melius ominare.

Amph.
Verum omnes sapientes decet conferre et fabulari.
sed Plesidippus tuos erus ubi, amabo, est?

Trach.
Heia vero,
quasi non sit intus.

Amp.
Neque pol est neque huc quidem ullus venit.

Tr.
Non venit?

Amp.
Vera praedicas.

Tr.
Non est meum, Ampelisca.
sed quam mox coctum est prandium?

Amp.
Quod prandium, obsecro te?

Trach.
Nempe rém divinam facitis hic.

Amp.
Quid somnias, amabo?

Trach.
Certe huc Labrax ad prandium vocavit Plesidippum
erúm meum erus vestér.

Amp.
Pol haud miranda facta dicis:
si deos decepit et homines, lenonum more fecit.

Trach.
Non rem divinam facitis hic vos neque erus?

Amp.
Hariolare.

Trach.
Quid tu agis hic igitur?

Amp.
Ex malis multis metuque summo

capitalique ex periculo orbas auxilique opumque huc
recepit ad se Veneria haec sacerdos me et Palaestram.

Trach.
An hic Palaestrast, obsecro, erí mei amica?

Amp.
Certo.

Trach.
Inest lepos in nuntio tuo mágnus, mea Ampelisca.
sed istúc periclum perlubet quod fuerit vobis scire.

Amp.
Confracta est, mi Trachalio, hac nocte navis nobis.

Trach.
Quid navis? quae istaec fabulast?

Amp.
Non audivisti, amabo,
quo pacto leno clanculum nos hinc auferre voluit
in Siciliam et quidquid domi fuit in navem imposivit?
ea nunc perierunt omnia.

Trach.
Oh, Neptune lepide, salve,
nec te aleator nullus est sapientior; profecto
nimis lépide iecisti bolum: periurum perdidisti.
sed nunc ubi est leno Labrax?

Amp.
Periit potando, opinor.
Neptunus magnis poculis hac nocte eum invitavit.

Trach.
Credo hercle anancaeo datum quod biberet. ut ego amo te,
mea Ampelisca, ut dulcis es, ut mulsa dicta dicis.

sed tu et Palaestra quomodo salvae estis?

Amp.
Scibis faxo.
de navi timidae ambae in scapham insiluimus, quia videmus
ad saxa navem ferrier; properans exsolvi restim,
dum illi timent; nos cum scapha tempestas dextrovorsum
differt ab illis. itaque nos ventisque fluctibusque
iactatae exemplis plurimis miserae perpetuam noctem;
vix hodie ad litus pertulit nos ventus exanimatas.

Trach.
Novi, Neptunus ita solet, quamvis fastidiosus
aedilis est: si quae improbae sunt merces, iactat omnis.

Amp.
Vae capiti atque aetati tuae.

Trach.
Tuo, mea Ampelisca.
scivi lenonem facere hóc, quod fecit, saepe dixi;
capillum promittam optimumst occipiamque hariolari.

Amp.
Cavistis ergo tu atque erus ne abiret, cum scibatis.

Trach.
Quid faceret?

Amp.
Sí amabat, rogas, quid faceret? adservaret
dies nóctesque, in custodia esset semper. verum ecastor
ut multi fecit ita probe curavit Plesidippus.

Trach.
Cur tu istuc dicis?

Amp.

Res palam est.

Trach.
Scin tu? etiam qui it lavatum
in balineas, cum ibi sedulo sua vestimenta servat,
tamen surripiuntur, quippe qui quem illorum observet falsust;
fur facile qui observat videt: custos qui fur sit nescit.
sed duce me ad illam ubi est.

Amp.
I sane in Veneris fanum huc intro,
sedentem flentemque opprimes.

Trach.
Vt iam istuc mihi molestumst.
sed quid flet?

Amp.
Ego dicam tibi: hoc sése excruciat animi,
quia leno ademit cistulam ei, quam habebat ubique habebat
qui suos parentis noscere possét: eam veretur
ne perierit.

Trach.
Vbinam ea fuit cistellula?

Amp.
Ibidem in navi.
conclusit ipse in vidulum, ne copia esset eius,
qui suos parentes nosceret.

Trach.
O facinus impudicum,
quam liberam esse oporteat servire postulare.

Amp.
Nunc eam cum navi scilicet abiisse pessum in altum.
et aurum et argentum fuit lenonis omne ibidem.

T.
Credo aliquem immersisse atque eum excepisse.

A.
Id misera maestast,
sibi eorum evenisse inopiam.

Trach.
Iam istoc magis usus factost,
ut eam intro consolerque eam, ne sic se excruciet animi;
nam multa praeter spem scio multis bona evenisse.

Amp.
At ego étiam, qui speraverint spem decepisse multos.

Trach.
Ergo animus aequos optimum est aerumnae condimentum.
ego eo intro, nisi quid vis. —

Amp.
Eas. ego quod mihi imperavit
sacerdos, id faciam atque aquam hinc de proximo rogabo;
nam extemplo, si verbis suis peterem, daturos dixit.
neque digniorem censeo vidisse anum me quemquam,
cui deos atque homines censeam bene facere magis decere.
ut lepide, ut liberaliter, ut honeste atque haud gravate
timidas egentes uvidas eiectas exanimatas
accepit ad sese, haud secus quam si ex se simus natae;
ut eapse sic succincta aquam calefactat, ut lavemus.
nunc ne morae illi sim, petam hinc aquam, unde mi imperavit.
heus ecquis in víllast? ecquis hoc recludit? ecquis prodit?

Sceparnio
Quís est qui nostris tám proterve fóribus facit iniúriam?

Amp.
Égo sum.

Scep.
Hem, quid hoc boni est? eu edepol specie lepida mulierem.

Amp.
Salve, adulescens.

Scep.
Et tu multum salveto, adulescentula.

Amp.
Ad vos venio.

Scep.
Accipiam hospitio, si mox venies ...
item ut adfectam; nam nunc nihil est qui te manem ...
sed quid ais, meá lepida, hilara?

Amp.
Aha, nimium familiariter
me attrectas.

Scep.
Pro di immortales, Veneris effigia haec quidem est.
ut in ocellis hilaritudo est, heia, corpus cuius modi,
subvolturium — illud quidem, subaquilum volui dicere.
vel papillae cuius modi, tum quae indoles in saviost.

Amp.
Non ego sum pollucta pago. potin ut me abstineas manum?

Scep.
Non licet saltem sic placide bellam belle tangere?

Amp.
Otium ubi erit, tum tibi operam ludo et deliciae dabo;
nunc quam ob rem huc sum missa, amabo, vel tu mi aias vel neges.

Scep.

Quid nunc vis?

Amp.
Sapienti ornatus quid velim indicium facit.

Scep.
Meus quoque hic sapienti ornatus quid velim indicium facit.

Amp.
Haec sacerdos Veneris hinc me petere aquam iussit a vobis. †

Scep.
At ego basilicus sum: quem nisi oras, guttam non feres.
nostro illum puteum periclo et ferramentis fodimus.
nisi multis blanditiis a me gutta non ferri potest.

Amp.
Cur tu aquam gravare, amabo, quam hostis hosti commodat?

Scep.
Cur tu operam gravare mihi quam civis civi commodat?

Amp.
Immo etiam tibi, mea voluptas, quae voles faciam omnia.

Scep.
Eugepae, salvos sum, haec iam me suam voluptatem vocat.
dabitur tibi aqua, ne nequiquam mé ames. cedo mi urnam.

Amp.
Cape.
propera, amabo, efferre.

Scep.
Manta, iam hic ero, voluptas mea. —

Amp.
Quid sacerdoti me dicam hic demoratam tam diu?

ut etiam nunc misera timeo, ubi oculis intueor mare.
sed quid ego misera video procul in litore?
meum erum lenonem Siciliensemque hospitem,
quos periisse ambos misera censebam in mari.
iam illud mali plus nobis vivit quam ratae.
sed quid ego cesso fugere in fanum ac dicere haec
Palaestrae, in aram ut confugiamus prius quam huc†
scelestus leno veniat nosque hic opprimat?
confugiam huc, ita res suppetit subit ...

Sceparnio
Pro di immortales, in aqua numquam credidi
voluptátem inesse tantam. ut hanc traxi lubens.
nimio minus altus puteus visust quam prius.
ut sine labore hanc extraxi, praefiscine.
satin néquam sum, ut pote qui hodie amare inceperim?
em tibi aquam, mea tu belliata. em sic volo
te ferre honeste, ut ego fero, ut placeas mihi.
sed ubi tu es, delicata? cape aquam hanc sis. ubi es?
amat hercle me, ut ego opinor. delituit mala.
ubi tu es? etiamne hanc urnam acceptura es? ubi es?
commodule ludis. tandem vero serio,
etiam acceptura es urnam hanc? ubi tu es gentium?
nusquam hercle equidem illam video. ludos me facit.
adponam hercle urnam iám ego hanc in media via.
sed autem, quid si hanc hinc abstulerit quispiam,
sacram urnam Veneris? mi exhibeat negotium.
metuo hercle ne illa mulier mi insidias locet,
ut comprehendar cum sacra urna Veneria.
nempe optimo me iure in vinclis enicet
magistrátus si quis me hanc habere viderit.
nam haec litteratast, eapse cantat cuia sit.
iam hercle evocabo hinc hanc sacerdotem foras,
ut hanc accipiat urnam. accedam huc ad fores.
heus exi, Ptolemocratia, cape hanc urnam tibi:
muliercula hanc nescio quae huc ad me detulit.
intro ferundast. repperi negotium,

siquidem hís mihi ultro ádgerunda etiam est aqua. —

Labrax
Qui homo sese miserum et mendicum volet,†
Neptuno credat sese atque aetatem suam:
nam si quis cúm eo quid rei commiscuit,
ad hoc exemplum amittit ornatum domum.
edepol, Libertas, lepida es, quae numquam pedem
voluisti in navem cum Hercule una imponere.
sed ubi ille meus est hospes, qui me perdidit?
atque eccum incedit.

Charmides
Quo malum properas, Labrax?
nam equidem te nequeo consequi tam strenue.

Labr.
Vtinam te prius quam óculis vidissem meis,
malo cruciatu in Sicilia perbiteres,
quem propter hoc mihi optigit misero mali.

Charm.
Vtinam, quom in aedis me ad te adduxisti tuas,
in carcere illo potius cubuissem die.
deosque ímmortales quaeso, dum vivas uti
omnes tui símiles hospites habeas tibi.

Labr.
Malam fortunam in aedis te adduxi meas.
quid mihi scelesto tibi erat auscultatio,
quidve hinc abitio quidve in navem inscensio?
ubi perdidi etiam plus boni quam mihi fuit.

Charm.
Pol minime miror, navis si fractast tibi,
scelus te ét sceleste parta quae vexit bona.

Labr.

Pessum dedisti me blandimentis tuis.

Charm.
Scelestiorem cenam cenavi tuam,
quam quae Thyestae quondam aut posita est Tereo.

Labr.
Perii, animo male fit. contine quaeso caput.

Charm.
Pulmoneum edepol nimis velim vomitum vomas.

Labr.
Eheu, Palaestra atque Ampelisca, ubi estis nunc?

Charm.
Piscibus in alto, credo, praebent pabulum.

Labr.
Mendicitatem mi optulisti opera tua,
dum tuis ausculto magnidicis mendaciis.

Charm.
Bonam est quod habeas gratiam merito mihi,
qui te ex insulso salsum feci opera mea.

Labr.
Quin tu hinc is a me in maxumam malam crucem?

Charm.
Eas. easque res agebam commodum.

Labr.
Eheu, quis vivit me mortalis miserior?

Charm.
Ego multo tanto miserior quam tu, Labrax.

Labr.

Qui?

Ch.
Quia ego indignus sum, tu dignus qui sies.

Labr.
O scirpe, scirpe, laudo fortunas tuas,
qui semper servas gloriam aritudinis.

Charm.
Equidem me ad velitationem exerceo,
nam omnia corusca prae temore fabulor.

Labr.
Edepol, Neptune, es balineator frigidus:
cum vestimentis postquam aps té abii, algeo.

Charm.
Ne thermipolium quidem ullum ínstruit,
ita salsam praehibet potionem et frigidam.

Labr.
Vt fortunati sunt fabri ferrarii,
qui apud carbones adsident: semper calent.

Charm.
Vtinam fortuna nunc anetina úterer,
ut quom exiissem éx aqua, arerem tamen.

Labr.
Quid si aliquo ad ludos me pro manduco locem?

Charm.
Quapropter?

Labr.
Quia pol clare crepito dentibus.

Charm.
Iure optumo me élavisse árbitror.

L.
Qui?

Ch.
Qui una auderem tecum in navem ascendere,
qui a fundamento mi usque movisti mare.

Labr.
Tibi auscultavi, tu promittebas mihi
illi esse quaestum maximum meretricibus,
ibi me conruere posse aiebas ditias.

Charm.
Iam postulabas te, impurata belua,
totam Siciliam devoraturum insulam?

Labr.
Quaenam ballaena meum voravit vidulum,
aurum atque argentum ubi omne compactum fuit?

Charm.
Eadem illa, credo, quae meum marsuppium,
quod plenum argenti fuit in sacciperio.

Labr.
Eheu, redactus sum usque ad unam hanc tuniculam
et ad hoc misellum pallium. perii oppido.

Charm.
Vel consociare mihi quidem tecum licet:
aequas habemus partes.

Labr.
Saltem si mihi
mulierculae essent salvae, spes aliquae forent.

nunc si me adulescens Plesidippus viderit,
quo ab arrabonem pro Palaestra acceperam,
iam is exhibebit hic mihi negotium.

Charm.
Quid, stulte, ploras? tibi quidem edepol copiast,
dum lingua vivet, qui rem solvas omnibus.

Sceparnio
Quíd illuc, opsecro, negotist quod duae mulierculae
hic in fano Veneris signum flentes amplexae tenent,
nescio quém metuentes miserae? nocte hac aiunt proxuma
se iactatas, atque eiectas hodie esse aiunt e mari.

Labr.
Opsecro hercle, adulescens, ubi istaec sunt quas memoras
mulieres?

Scep.
Hic in fano Veneris.

Labr.
Quot sunt?

Scep.
Totidem quot ego et tu sumus.

Labr.
Nempe meae?

Scep.
Nempe néscio istuc.

Labr.
Qua sunt facie?

Scep.
Scitula.

vel ego amare utramvis possum, si probe adpotus siem.

Labr.
Nempe puellae?

Scep.
Nempe moléstus es. i vise, si lubet.

Labr.
Meas oportet intus esse hic mulieres, mi Charmides.

Charm.
Iuppiter te perdat, et si sunt, et si non sunt tamen.

Labr.
Intro rumpam iam huc in Veneris fanum. —

Charm.
In barathrum mavelim.
opsecro, hospes, da mihi aliquid ubi condormiscam loci.

Scep.
Istic ubi vis condormisce; nemo prohibet, publicum est.

Charm.
At vides me ornatus ut sim vestimentis uvidis:
recipe me in tectum, da mihi vestimenti aliquid aridi,
dum arescunt mea; ín aliquo tibi gratiam referam loco.

Scep.
Tegillum eccillud, mihi unum id aret; id si vis, dabo:
eodem amictus, eodem tectus esse soleo, si pluit.
tu istaec mihi dato: exarescent faxo.

Charm.
Eho an te paenitet,
in mari quod elavi, ni híc in terra iterum eluam?

Scep.
Eluas tu an exunguare, ciccum non interduim.
tibi ego numquam quicquam credam, nisi si accepto pignore.
tu vel suda vel peri algu, vel tu aegrota vel vale.
barbarum hospitem mi in aedis nil moror. sat litiumst. —

Charm.
Iamne abis? venalis illic ductitavit, quisquis est;
non est misericors. sed quid ego hic asto infelix uvidus?
quin abeo huc in Veneris fanum, ut edormiscam hanc crapulam,
quam potavi praeter animi quam libuit sententiam?
quasi vinis Graecis Neptunus nobis suffudit mare,
itaque alvom prodi speravit nobis salsis poculis;
quid opust verbis? si invitare nos paulisper pergeret,
ibidem obdormissemus: nunc vix vivos amisit domum.
nunc lenonem quid agat intus visam, convivam meum. —

ACT III.

Daemones
Miris modis di ludos faciunt hominibus:
mirisque exemplis somnia in somnis danunt
ne dormientis quidem sinunt quiescere.
velut ego hac nocte quae praecessit proxima
mirum atque inscitum somniavi somnium.
ad hirundininum nidum visa est simia
ascensionem ut faceret admolirier

...

neque eas eripere quibat inde. postibi
videtur ad me simia adgredirier,
rogare scalas ut darem utendas sibi.
ego ad hoc exemplum simiae respondeo,

...

natas ex Philomela † atque ex Progne esse hirundines.
ago cum ílla, ne quid noceat meis popularibus.
atque illa ánimo iam fieri ferocior;
videtur ultro mihi malum minitarier.
in ius vocat med. ibi ego nescio quo modo
iratus videor mediam arripere simiam;
concludo in vincla bestiam nequissimam.
nunc quam ad rem dicam hoc attinere somnium,
numquam hodie quivi ad coniecturam evadere.
sed quid hic in Veneris fano meae viciniae
clamoris oritur? animus miratur meus.

Trachalio
Pró Cyrenenses populares, vostram ego imploro fidem,
agricolae, accolae propinqui qui estis his regionibus,
ferte opem inopiae atque exemplum pessumum pessum date.
vindicate, ne impiorum potior sit pollentia

quam innocentum, qui se scelere fieri nolunt nobiles.
statuite exemplum impudenti, date pudori praemium,
facite hic lege potius liceat quam vi victo vivere.
currite huc in Veneris fanum, vostram iterum imploro fidem,
qui prope hic adestis quique auditis clamorem meum,
ferte suppetias qui Veneri Veneriaeque antistitae
more antiquo in custodelam suom commiserunt caput,
praetorquete iniuriae prius cóllum quam ad vos pervenat.

Da.

Quid istuc est negoti?

Tr.
Per ego haec genua te optestor, senex,
quisquis es —

Daem.
Quin tu ergo omitte genua et quid sit mi expedi
quod tumultues.

Trach.
Teque oro et quaeso, si speras tibi
hoc anno multum futurum sirpe et laserpicium
eamque eventuram exagogam Capuam salvam et sospitem,
atque ab lippitudine usque siccitas ut sit tibi,

Daem.
Sanun es?

Trach.
Seu tibi confidis fore multam magudarim
ut te ne pigeat dare operam mihi quod te orabo, senex.

Daem.
At ego te per crura et talos tergumque obtestor tuom,
ut, tibi ulmeam ni deesse speres virgidemiam
et tibi eventuram hoc anno úberem messem mali,

ut mi istuc dicas negoti quid sit, quod tumultues.

Trach.
Qui lubet maledicere? equidem tibi bona optavi omnia.

Daem.
Bene equidem tibi dico, qui te digna ut eveniant precor.

Tr.
Obsecro, hoc praevortere ergo.

Da.

Quid negotist?

Tr.

Mulieres
duae innocentes intus hic sunt, tui indigentes auxili,
quibus advorsum ius legesque ínsignite iniuria hic
facta est fitque in Veneris fano; tum sacerdos Veneria
indigne adflictatur.

Daem.
Quis homo est tanta confidentia,
qui sacerdotem violare aúdet? sed eae mulieres
quae sunt? aut quid is iniqui fit?

Trach.
Si das operam, eloquar.
Veneris signum sunt amplexae. nunc homo audacissimus
eas deripere volt. eas ámbas esse oportet liberas.

Daem.
Quis istic est qui deos tam parvi pendit? paucis expedi.

Trach.
Fraudis sceleris parricidi periuri plenissimus,

legirupa impudens impurus inverecundissimus,
uno verbo absolvam, lenost: quid illum porro praedicem?

Daem.
Edepol infortunio hominem praedicas donabilem.

Trach.
Qui sacerdoti scelestus faucis interpresserit.

Daem.
At malo cum magno suo fecít hercle. ite istinc foras,
Turbalio, Sparax. ubi estis?

Trach.
I obsecro intro, subveni
illis.

Daem.
Iterum haud imperabo. sequimini hac.

Trach.
Age nunciam,
iube oculos elidere, itidem ut sepiis faciunt coqui.

Daem.
Proripite hominem pedibus huc itidem quasi occisam suem. —

Trach.
Audio tumultum. opinor, leno pugnis pectitur.
nimis velim improbissimo homini malas edentaverint.
sed eccas ipsae huc egrediuntur timidae e fano mulieres.

Palaestra
Núnc id est cum ómnium cópiarum átque opum,
aúxili, praésidi víduitas nós tenet.
núlla nunc spéculast quaé salutem áfferat,
néc quam in partem íngredi pérsequamur
scímus: tanto ín metu núnc sumus ambae,

tánta importúnitas tántaque iniúria
fácta in nos ést modo hic íntus ab nóstro ero,
quí scelestús sacerdótem anum praécipes
réppulit própulit pérquam indignís modis
nósque ab signo íntimo ví deripuít sua.
séd nunc sese út ferunt rés fortunaéque nostrae,
pár moriri ést. neque est mélius morte ín malis,
rébus miserís.

Trach.
Quid est? quae íllaec orátiost?
césso ego has cónsolari? heús, Palaestra,

Pal.
Quí vocat?

Trach.
Ámpelisca.

Ampelisca
Óbsecro, quis est qui vocat?

Pal.
Quís is est qui nóminat?

Trach.
Sí respexís, scies.

Pal.
Ó salutís meae spés.

Trach.
Tace ac bóno animo es.
mé vide.

Pal.
Sí modo id líceat, vis ne ópprimat,
quaé vis vim mi áfferam ipsa ádigit.

Tr.
Ah, désine, nímis inepta es.

Pal.
Desíste dictis núnciam miserám me consolári;
nisi quid re praesidium apparas, Trachalio, acta haec res est.

Amp.
Certumst moriri quam hunc pati saevire lenonem in me.
sed muliebri animo sum tamen: miserae quom venit in mentem
mihi mortis, metus membra occupat. edepol ... hunc acerbum.

T.
Bonum animum habete.

P.
Nam, obsecro, unde ánimus mi invenitur?

Trach.
Ne, inquam, timete; adsidite hic in ara.

Amp.
Quid istaec ara
prodesse nobis plus potest quam signum in fano hic intus
Veneris, quod amplexae modo, unde abreptae per vim miserae?

Trach.
Sedete hic modo, ego hinc vós tamen tutabor. aram habete hanc
vobis pro castris, moenia hinc égo vos defensabo;
praesidio Veneris malitiae lenonis contra incedam.

Pal.
Tibi auscultamus et, Venús alma, ambae te obsecramus,
aram amplexantes hanc tuam lacrumantes, genibus nixae,
in custodelam nos tuam ut recipias et tutere;
illos scelestos, qui tuom fecerunt fanum parvi,
fac ut ulciscare nosque ut hanc tua páce aram obsidere
patiare: elautae ambae sumus opera Neptuni noctu,

ne invisas habeas neve idcirco nobis vitio vortas,
si quippiamst, minus quód bene esse lautum tu arbitrare.

Trach.
Venus, aequom has petere intellego: decet abs te id impetrari;
ignoscere his te convenit: metus has id ut fáciant subigit.
te ex concha natam esse autumant, cave tu hárum conchas spernas.
sed optume eccum exit senex, patronus mihique et vobis.

Daemones
Éxi e fano, natum quantum est hominum sacrilegissime.
vos in aram abite sessum. sed ubi sunt?

Trach.
Huc respice.

Daem.
Optume, istuc volueramus. iube modo accedat prope.
tun legirupionem hic nobis cum dis facere postulas?
pugnum in os impinge.

Labr.
Iniqua haec patior cum pretio tuo.

Daem.
At etiam minitatur audax?

Labr.
Ius meum ereptum est mihi,
meas mihi ancillas invito me eripis.

Trach.
Cedo iudicem
de senatu Cyrenensi quemvis opulentum virum,
si tuas ésse oportet nive eas ésse oportet liberas
nive in carcerem compingi te est aequom aetatemque ibi
te usque habitare, donec totum carcerem contriveris.

Labr.
Non hodie isti rei auspicavi, ut cum furcifero fabuler.
té ego appello.

Daem.
Cum istoc primum, qui te novit, disputa.

Labr.
Tecum ago.

Trach.
At qui mecum agendumst. suntne illae ancillae tuae?

Labr.
Sunt.

Trach.
Agedum ergo, tange utramvis digitulo minimo modo.

L.
Quid si attigero?

T.
Extemplo hercle ego te follem pugilatorium
faciam et pendentem incursabo pugnis, periurissime.

Labr.
Mihi non liceat meas ancillas Veneris de ara abducere?

Daem.
Non licet: est lex apud nos —

Labr.
Mihi cum vestris legibus
nil quicquamst commerci. equidem istas iam ambas educam foras.
tu, senex, si istas amas, huc arido argentost opus;
si autem Veneri complacuerunt, habeat, si argentum dabit.

Daem.
Det tibi argentum? nunc adeo meam ut scias sententiam,
occipito modo illís adferre vim ioculo pausillulum,
ita ego te hinc ornatum amittam, tu ipsus te ut non noveris.
vos adeo, ubi ego innuero vobis, ni ei caput exoculassitis,
quasi murteta iunci, item ego vos virgis circumvinciam.

La.

Ví agis mecum.

Tr.
Etiam vim †proportas, flagiti flagrantia?

Labr.
Tun, trifurcifer, mihi audes inclementer dicere?

Trach.
Fateor, ego trifurcifer sum, tu es homo adprime probus:
numqui minus hasce esse oportet liberas?

Labr.
Quid, liberas?

Trach.
Atque eras tuas quidem hercle, atque ex germana Graecia;
nam altera haec est nata Athenis ingenuis parentibus.

Daem.
Quid ego ex te audio?

Trach.
Hanc Athenis esse natam liberam.

Da.

Mea popularis, obsecro, haec est?

Tr.

Non tu Cyrenensis es?

Daem.
Immo Athenis natus altusque educatusque Atticis.

Trach.
Opsecro, defende cives tuas, senex.

Daem.
O filia
mea, quom hanc video, mearum me absens miseriarum commones;
trima quae periit mihi, iam tanta esset, si vivit, scio.

Labr.
Argentum ego pro istisce ambabus cuiae erant domino dedi;
quid mea réfert, haec Athenis natae án Thebis sient,
dum mihi recte servitutem serviant?

Trach.
Itane, impudens?
tune hic, feles virginalis, liberos parentibus
sublectos habebis atque indigno quaestu conteres?
nam húic alterae quae patria sit profecto nescio,
nisi scio probiorem hanc esse, quam te, impuratissime.

La.

†Tuae istae sunt.

Tr.
Contende ergo, uter sit tergo — verior:
ni offerumentas habebis pluris in tergo tuo,
quam ulla navis longa clavos, tum ego ero mendacissimus:
postea aspicito meum, quando ego tuom inspectavero:
ní erit tam sincerum, ut quivis dicat ampullarius
optimum esse operi faciundo corium et sincerissimum,
quid causae est quin virgis te usque ad saturitatem sauciem?
quid illas spectas? quas si attigeris, oculos eripiam tibi.

Labr.
At qui, quia votas, utramque iam mecum abducam simul.

Daem.
Quid facies?

Labr.
Volcanum adducam, is Venerist adversarius.

Trach.
Quo illic it?

Labr.
Heus, ecquis hic est? heus.

Daem.
Si attigeris ostium,
iam hercle tibi messis in ore fiet mergis pugneis.

Lorarivs
Nullum habemus ignem, ficis victitamus aridis.

Daem.
Ego dabo ignem, siquidem in capite tuo conflandi copiast.

Labr.
Ibo hercle aliquo quaeritatum ígnem.

Daem.
Quid quom inveneris?

La.

Ignem magnum hic faciam.

Da.

Quin † inhumanum exuras tibi?

Labr.
Immo hasce ambas hic in ara ut vivas comburam, id volo.

Daem.
Iam hercle ego te barba continuo arripiam, in ignem coniciam
teque ambustulatum obiciam magnis avibus pabulum.
quom coniecturam egomet mecum facio, haec illast simia,
quae has hirundines ex nido volt eripere ingratiis,
quod ego in somnis somniavi.

Trach.
Scin quid tecum oro, senex?
ut illas serves, vim defendas, dúm ego erum adduco meum.

D.
Quaere erum atque adduce.

T.
At hic ne —

D.
Maximo malo suo,
si attigerit sive occeptassit.

Trach.
Cura.

Daem.
Curatumst, abi.

Trach.
Hunc quoque adserva ipsum, ne quo abitat; nam promisimus
carnufici aut talentum magnum aút hunc hodie sistere.

Daem.
Abi modo, ego dum hoc curabo recte.

Trach.

Iam ego revenero.

Daem.
Vtrum tu, leno, cum malo lubentius
quiescis an sic sine malo, si copiast?

Labr.
Ego quae tu loquere flocci non facio, senex.
meas quidem te invito et Venere et summo Iove
de ara capillo iam deripiam.

Daem.
Tange dum.

Labr.
Tangam hercle vero.

Daem.
Agedum ergo, accede huc modo.

Labr.
Iube dúm recedere istos ambo illuc modo.

Daem.
Immo ad te accedent.

Labr.
Non hercle equidem censeo.

Daem.
Quid ages, si accedent propius?

Labr.
Ego recessero.
verum, senex, si te umquam in urbe offendero,
numquam hercle quisquam me lenonem dixerit,
si te non ludos pessimos dimisero.

Daem.
Facito istuc quod minitare; sed nunc interim,
si illas attigeris, dabitur tibi magnum malum.

Labr.
Quam magnum vero?

Daem.
Quantum lenoni sat est.

Labr.
Minacias ego flocci non faciam tuas,
equidem has te invito iam ambas rapiam.

Daem.
Tange dum.

Labr.
Tangam hercle vero.

Daem.
Tanges, at scin quo modo?
i dum, Turbalio, curriculo, adferto domo
duas clávas.

Labr.
Clavas?

Daem.
Sed probas. propera cito.
ego te hodie faxo recte acceptum, ut dignus es.

Labr.
Eheu, scelestus galeam in navi perdidi;
nunc mi opportuna hic esset, salva si foret.
licet saltem istas mi appellare?

Daem.

Non licet.
ehem, optime edepol eccum clavator ádvenit.

Labr.
Illud quidem edepol tinnimentum est auribus.

Daem.
Age accipe illinc alteram clavam, Sparax.
age, alter istinc, alter hinc adsistite.
adsistite ambo. sic. audite nunciam:
si hercle illic illas hodie digito tetigerit
invitas, ni istunc istis invitassitis
usque adeo donec qua domum abeat nesciat,
periistis ambo. si appellabit quempiam,
vos respondetote istinc istarum vicem;
sin ipse abire hínc volet, quantum potest
extemplo amplectitote crura fustibus.

Labr.
Etiam me abire hinc non sinent?

Daem.
Dixi satis.
et ubi ille servos cúm ero huc advenerit,
qui erum accersivit, itote extemplo domum.
curate haec sultis magna diligentia. —

Labr.
Heu hercle, ne istic fana mutantur cito:
iam hoc Herculi est, Veneris fanum quod fuit,
ita duo destituit signa hic cum clavis senex.
non hercle quo hinc nunc gentium aufugiam scio,
ita nunc mi utrumque saevit, et terra et mare.

Palaestra.
Lor.
Quid vis?

Labr.
Apage, controversia est,
haec quidem Palaestra, quae respondit, non mea est.
heus, Ampelisca.
Lor. alter
Cave sis infortunio.

Labr.
Vltro te. signa ut homines satis recte monent.
sed vobis dico, heús vos, num molestiaest,
me adire ad illas propius?

Lor.
Nil nobis quidem.

Labr.
Numquid molestum mihi erit?

Lor.
Nil, si caveris.

Labr.
Quid est quod caveam?

Lor.
Em, a crasso infortunio.

Labr.
Quaeso hercle, abire ut liceat.

Lor.
Abeas, si velis.

Labr.
Bene hercle factum. habeo vobis gratiam.
non accedam potius.

Lor.

Illic astato ilico.

Labr.
Edepol proveni nequiter multis modis.
certumst hasce hodie usque obsidione vincere.

Plesidippvs
Meamne ílle amicam leno vi, violentia
de ara deripere Veneris voluit?

Trachalio

Admodum.
Ples.
Quin occidisti extemplo?

Trach.
Gladius non erat.

Pl.
Caperes aut fustem aut lapidem.

Tr.
Quid? ego quasi canem
hominem insectarer lapidibus nequissimum?

Labr.
Nunc pol ego perii, Plesidippus eccum adest.
converret iam hic me totum cum pulvisculo.

Ples.
Etiamne in ara tunc sedebant mulieres,
quom ad me profectu's ire?

Trach.
Ibidem nunc sedent.

Ples.

Quis illás nunc illic servat?

Trach.
Nescio quis senex,
vicinus Veneris; is dedit operam optumam.
is nunc cum servis servat. ego mandaveram.

Ples.
Duc me ad lenonem recta. ubi illic est homo?

Labr.
Salve.

Ples.
Salutem nil moror. opta ocius:
rapi te obtorto collo mavis an trahi?
utrum vis opta, dum licet.

Labr.
Neutrum volo.

Ples.
Abi sáne ad litus curriculo, Trachalio,
iube illós in urbem ire obviam ad portum mihi,
quos mecum duxi, hunc qui ad carnificem traderent.
post huc redito atque agitato hic custodiam.
ego hunc scelestum ín ius rapiam éxulem.
age, ambula in ius.

Labr.
Quid ego deliqui?

Ples.
Rogas,
quin arrabonem a me accepisti ob mulierem
et eam hinc abduxti?

Labr.

Non avexi.

Ples.
Cur negas?

Labr.
Quia pol provexi: avehere non quivi miser.
equidem tibi me dixeram praesto fore
apud Véneris fanum: numquid muto? sumne ibi?

Ples.
In iure causam dicito, hic verbum sat est:
sequere.

Labr.
Obsecro te, subveni mi, Charmides.
rapior optorto collo.

Charmides
Quis me nominat?

Labr.
Viden me ut rapior?

Charm.
Video, atque inspecto lubens.

Labr.
Non subvenire mi audes?

Charm.
Quis homo te rapit?

Labr.
Adulescens Plesidippus.

Charm.
Vt nanctu's, habe.

bono animo meliust te in nervom conrepere.
tibi optigit quod plurimi exoptant sibi.

Labr.
Quid id est?

Charm.
Vt id quod quaerant inveniant sibi.

Labr.
Sequere, obsecro, me.

Charm.
Pariter suades qualis es:
tu in nervom rapere, eo me óbsecras ut te sequar.
etiam retentas?

Labr.
Perii.

Ples.
Verum sit velim.
tu, mea Palaestra et Ampelisca, ibidem ilico
manete, dúm ego huc redeo.

Lor.
Equidem suadeo,
ut ad nos abeant potius, dum recipis.

Ples.
Placet,
bene facitis.

Labr.
Fures mi estis.

Lor.
Quid, fures? rape.

Labr.
Oro obsecro, Palaestra.

Ples.
Sequere, carnufex.

Labr.
Hospes —

Charm.
Non sum hospes, repudio hospitium tuom.

Labr.
Sicine me spernis?

Charm.
Sic ago: semel bibo.

Labr.
Di te infelicent. —

Charm.
Isti capiti dicito.
credo alium in aliam beluam hominem vortier:
illic ín columbum, credo, leno vortitur,
nam in collumbari collus haud multo post erit;
in nervom ille hodie nidamenta congeret.
verum tamen ibo, ei advocatus ut siem,
si qui mea opera citius addici potest. —

ACT IV.

Daemones
Bene factum et volup est, mé hodie his mulierculis
tetulisse auxilium. iam clientas repperi,
atque ambas forma scitula atque aetatula.
sed uxór scelesta me omnibus servat modis,
ne quid significem quippiam mulierculis.
sed Gripus servos noster quid rerum gerat
miror, de nocte qui abiit piscatum ad mare.
pol magis sapisset, si dormivisset domi,
nam nunc et operam ludos facit et retia,
ut tempestas est nunc atque ut noctu fuit.
in digitis hodie percoquam quod ceperit,
ita fluctuare video vehementer mare.
sed ad prándium uxor me vocat. redeo domum.
iam meas opplebit aures † sua vaniloquentia. —

Gripvs
Neptúno has agó gratiás meo patróno,
qui sálsis locís incolít pisculéntis,
quom me éx suis locís pulchre ornátum expedívit
†templís reducém, plurimá praeda onústum,
salúte horiaé, quae in marí fluctuóso
piscátu novó me uberí compotívit;
miróque modo atque incrédibili hic piscátus mihi lepide évenit,
neque píscium ullam unciam hodié pondo cepí, nisi hoc quod fero hic ín rete.
nam ut dé nocte múlta impigréque exurréxi,
lucrúm praeposívi sopóri et quiéti:
tempéstate saéva experíri expetívi,
paupértatem erí qui et meám servitútem
tolerárem, opera haud fui párcus mea.
nímis homo nihilist quis piger est nímisque id genus odi égo male.
vigiláre decet hominém qui volt sua témperi conficere ófficia.
non énim illum expectare óportet, dum erus se ád suom suscitet

ófficium.
nám qui dormiúnt libenter, síne lucro et cum málo quiescunt.
nám ego nunc mihi, qui ímpiger fui,
répperi ut piger, sí velim, siem:
hóc ego in mari quidquid inést répperi.
quidquíd inest, grave quidem inést; aurum hic ego inésse reor;
nec míhi consciust ullús homo.
nunc haéc tibi occasio, Grípe optigit, ut líber sit
nemo éx populo praetér te.
nunc síc faciam, sic cónsilium est: ad erúm veniam docte atque astute.
pauxíllatim pollícitabor pro cápite argentum, ut sím liber.
iam ubi líber ero, igitúr demum instrúam agrum atque aedis, máncipia,
navíbus magnis mercáturam faciam, ápud reges rex pérhibebor.
post ánimi causa míhi navem faciam átque imitabor Strátonicum,
oppída circumvectábor.
ubi nóbilitas mea erít clara,
oppídum magnum commúnibo, ei ego úrbi Gripo indám nomen,
moniméntum meae famae ét factis, ibi quí regnum magnum ínstituam.
magnas res hic agito in mentem instruere. nunc hunc vidulum condam.
sed hic réx cum aceto pránsurust et sále, sine bono pulménto.

Trachalio
Heus, máne.

Grip.
Quid maneam?

Trach.
Dum hánc tibi, quam tráhis, rudentem cómplico.

Grip.
Mitté modo.

Trach.
At pol ego te ádiuvo nam bónis quod bene fit haúd perit.

Grip.
Turbída tempestas héri fuit,
nil hábeo, adulescens, píscium, ne tú mihi esse póstules;
non vídes referre me úvidum reté, sine squamosó pecu?

Trach.
Non édepol piscis éxpeto quam tuí sermonis sum índigens.

Grip.
Enícas iam me odio, quísquis es.

Trach.
Non sínam ego abire hinc té. mane.

Gr.
Cave sís malo. quid tú, malum, nám me retrahis?

Tr.
Aúdi.

G.
Non aúdio.

T.
At pol qui aúdies póst.

G.
Quin loquere quíd vis.

Tr.
Eho máne dum, est óperae pretium quod tíbi ego narraré volo.

Gr.
Elóquere quid id est?

Tr.

Víde num quispíam consequitur própe nos.

Grip.
Écquid est quód mea réferat?

Trach.
Scílicet.
séd boni cónsili écquid in té mihi est?

Grip.
Quíd negoti ést, modo díce.

Trach.
Dicám, tace,
sí fidem modo dás mihi te nón fore infídum.

Grip.
Dó fidem tibi, fídus ero, quísquis es.

Trach.
Aúdi.
furtum égo vidi qui fáciebat;
norám dominum, id cui fíebat,
post ád furem egomet dévenio
feroque eí condicionem hóc pacto:
“ego istúc furtum scio cuí factum est;
nunc míhi si vis dare dímidium,
indícium domino nón faciam.”
is míhi nihil etiam réspondit.
quid inde aéquom est dari mihi? dímidium
volo ut dícas.

Grip.
Immo hercle étiam amplius,
nam nísi dat, domino dícundum
censeó.

Trach.

Tuo consilió faciam.
nunc ádvorte animum; námque hoc omne
attinét ad te.

Grip.
Quid fáctumst?

Tr.
Vídulum istum cúiust novi ego hóminem iam pridem.

Gr.
Quid est?

Trach.
Et quo pacto periit.

Grip.
At ego quo pacto inventust scio
et qui invenit hominem novi et dominus qui nunc est scio.
nihilo pol pluris tua hoc quam quanti illud refert mea:
ego illum novi cuius nunc est, tu illum cuius antehac fuit.
hunc homo feret a me nemo, ne tu te speres potis.

Trach.
Non ferat si dominus veniat?

Grip.
Dominus huic, ne frustra sis,
nisi ego nemo natust, hunc qui cepi in venatu meo.

Trach.
Itane vero?

Grip.
Ecquem esse dices in mari piscem meum?
quos cum capio, siquidem cepi, mei sunt; habeo pro meis,
nec manu adseruntur neque illinc partem quisquam postulat.
in foro palam omnes vendo pro meis venalibus.

mare quidem commune certost omnibus.

Trach.
Adsentio:
qui minus hunc communem quaeso mi esse oportet vidulum?
in mari inventust communi.

Grip.
Esne impudenter impudens?
nam si istuc ius sit quod memoras, piscatores perierint.
quippe quom extemplo in macellum pisces prolati sient,
nemo emat, suam quisque partem piscium poscant sibi,
dicant, in mari communi captos.

Trach.
Quid ais, impudens?
ausu's etiam comparare vidulum cum piscibus?
eadem tandem res videtur?

Grip.
In manu non est mea:
ubi demisi rete atque hamum, quidquid haesit extraho.
meum quod rete atque hami nancti sunt, meum potissimumst.

Tr.
Immo hercle haud est, siquidem quod vas excepisti.

Gr.
Philosophe.

Trach.
Sed tu enumquam piscatorem vidisti, venefice,
vidulum piscem cepisse aut protulisse ullum in forum?
non enim tu híc quidem occupabis omnis quaestus quos voles:
et vitorem et piscatorem te esse, impure, postulas.
vel te mihi monstrare oportet piscis qui sit vidulus,
vel quod in mari non natum est neque habet squamas ne feras.

Gr.
Quid, tu numquam audisti esse antehac vidulum piscem?

Tr.
Scelus,
nullus est.

Grip.
Immo est profecto; ego, qui sum piscator, scio;
verum raro capitur, nullus minus saepe ad terram venit.

Trach.
Nil agis, dare verba speras mihi te posse, furcifer.

Gr.
Quo colore est, hoc colore capiuntur pauxilluli;
sunt alii puniceo corio, magni item; atque atri.

Trach.
Scio.
tu hercle, opino, in vidulum te bis convertes, nisi caves:
fiet tibi puniceum corium, postea atrum denuo.

Grip.
Quod scelus hodie hoc inveni.

Trach.
Verba facimus, it dies.
vide sis, cuius arbitratu nos vis facere.

Grip.

Viduli
arbitratu. ... ita enim vero.

Trach.
Stultus es.

Grip.
Salve, Thales.

Trach.
Tu istunc hodie non feres, nisi das sequestrum aut arbitrum,
quoius haec res arbitratu fiat.

Grip.
Quaeso, sanus es?

Trach.
Elleborosus sum.

Grip.
At ego cerritus, hunc non amittam tamen.

Trach.
Verbum etiam adde unum, iam in cerebro colaphos apstrudam tuo;
iam ego te hic, itidem quasi peniculus novos exurgeri solet,
ni hunc amittis, exurgebo quidquid umoris tibist.

Grip.
Tange: adfligam ad terram te itidem ut piscem soleo polypum.
vis pugnare?

Trach.
Quid opust? quin tu potius praedam divide.

Grip.
Hinc tu nisi malum frunisci nil potes, ne postules.
abeo ego hinc.

Tr.
At ego hinc offlectam navem, ne quo abeas. mane.

Grip.
Si tu proreta isti navi es, ego gubernator ero.
mitte rudentem, sceleste.

Trach.
Mittam: omitte vidulum.

Grip.
Numquam hercle hinc hodie ramenta fies fortunatior.

Trach.
Non probare pernegando mihi potes, nisi pars datur
aut ad arbitrum reditur aut sequestro ponitur.

Grip.
Quemne ego excepi in mari —

Trach.
At ego ínspectavi e litore.

Grip.
Mea opera, labore et rete et horia?

Trach.
Numqui minus,
si veniat nunc dominus cuiust, ego qui inspectavi procul
te hunc habere, fur sum quam tu?

Grip.
Nihilo.

Trach.
Mane, mastigia:
quo argumento socius non sum, et fur sum? fac dum ex te sciam.

Grip.
Nescio, neque ego istas vestras leges urbanas scio,
nisi quia hunc meum esse dico.

Trach.
Ét ego item esse aio meum.

Grip.
Mane, iam repperi quo pacto nec fur nec socius sies.

Trach.
Quo pacto?

Grip.
Sine me hinc abire, tú abi tacitus tuam viam;
nec tu me cuiquam indicassis neque ego tibi quicquam dabo;
tu taceto, ego mussitabo: hoc optimum atque aequissimum est.

Trach.
Ecquid condicionis audes ferre?

Grip.
Iam dudum fero:
ut abeas, rudentem amittas, mihi molestus ne sies.

Tr.
Mane, dum refero condicionem.

Gr.
Te, opsecro hercle, aufer modo.

Trach.
Ecquem in his locis novisti?

Grip.
Oportet vicinos meos.

Tr.
Vbi tu hic habitas?

Gr.
Porro illic longe usque in campis ultimis.

Trach.
Vin qui in hac villa habitat, eius arbitratu fieri?

Grip.
Paulisper remitte restem, dum concedo et consulo.

Trach.
Fiat.

Grip.
Euge, salva res est, praeda haec perpetua est mea;
ad meum erum arbitrum vocat me hic intra praesepis meas:
numquam hercle hodie abiudicabit ab suo triobolum.
ne iste haud scit quam condicionem tetulerit. íbo ad arbitrum.

Tr.
Quid igitur?

Gr.
Quamquam istuc esse ius meum certo scio,
fiat istuc potius, quam nunc pugnem tecum.

Trach.
Nunc places.

Grip.
Quamquam ad ignotum arbitrum me appellis, si adhibebit fidem,
etsist ignotus, notus: si non, notus ignotissimust.

Daemones
Serio edepol, quamquam vobis volo quae voltis, mulieres,
metuo, propter vos ne uxor mea med extrudat aedibus,
quae me paelices adduxe dicet ante oculos suos.
vos confugite in aram potius quám ego.

Pvellae
Miserae periimus.

Daem.
Ego vos salvas sistam, ne timete. sed quid vos foras
prosequimini? quoniam ego adsum, faciet nemo iniuriam;

ite, inquam, domum ambo nunciam ex praesidio praesides.

Grip.
O ere, salve.

Daem.
Salve, Gripe. quid fit?

Trach.
Túosne hic servos est?

Grip.
Haud pudet.

Trach.
Níl ago tecum.

Grip.
Ergo ábi hinc sis.

Trach.
Quaeso responde, senex:
tuos hic servost?

Da.

Meus est.

Tr.
Em istuc optime, quando tuost.
iterum te saluto.

Daem.
Et ego te. tune es qui haud multo prius
abiisti hinc erum accersitum?

Tr.
Ego is sum.

Da.

Quid nunc vis tibi?

Tr.
Nempe hic tuos est?

Da.

Meus est.

Tr.
Istuc optime, quando tuost.

Da.

Quid negotist?

Tr.
Vir scelestus íllic est.

Da.

Quíd fecit tibi
vir scelestus?

Trach.
Homini ego isti talos subfringi volo.

Daem.
Quid est? qua de re litigatis nunc inter vos?

Trach.
Eloquar.

Gr.
Immo ego eloquar.

Tr.

Ego, opinor, rem facesso.

Gr.
Si quidem
sis pudicus, hinc facessas.

Daem.
Gripe, animum advorte ac tace.

Gr.
Vtin istic prius dicat?

Da.

Audi. loquere tu.

Gr.
Alienon prius
quam tuo dábis orationem?

Trach.
Vt nequitur comprimi.
ita ut occepi dicere, illum quem dudum e fano foras
lenonem extrusisti, hic eius vidulum eccillum tenet.

Gr.
Non habeo.

Tr.
Negas quod oculis video?

Gr.
At ne videas velim.
habeo, non habeo: quid tu me curas quid rerum geram?

Trach.
Quo modó habeas, id refert, iurene anne iniuria.

Grip.

Ni istum cepi, nulla causa est quin me condones cruci;
si in mari reti prehendi, qui tuom pótiust quam meum?

Tr.
Verba dat. hoc modo res gesta est ut ego dico.

Gr.
Quid tu ais?

Trach.
Quod primarius vir dicat: comprime hunc sis, si tuost.

Grip.
Quid? tu idem mihi vis fieri quod erus consuevit tibi?
si ille te comprimere solitust, hic noster nos non solet.

Daem.
Verbo illo modo ille vicit. quid nunc tu vis? dic mihi.

Trach.
Equidem ego neque partem posco mi istinc de istoc vidulo
neque meum esse hodie umquam dixi; séd isti inest cistellula
huius mulieris, quam dudum dixi fuisse liberam.

Daem.
Nempe tu hanc dícis quam esse aiebas dudum popularem meam?

Trach.
Admodum; et ea quae olim parva gestavit crepundia
istic ín ista cistula insunt, quae isti inest in vidulo.
hoc neque isti ususst, et illi miserae suppetias feret,
si id dederit, qui suos parentis quaerat.

Daem.
Faciam ut det. tace.

Grip.
Nil hercle ego sum isti daturus.

Trach.
Nil peto nisi cistulam
et crepundia.

Grip.
Quid si ea sunt aurea?

Trach.
Quid istuc tua?
aurum auro expendetur, argentum argento exaequabitur.

Grip.
Fac sis aurum ut videam, post ego faciam ut videas cistulam.

Daem.
Cave malo ac tace tú. tu perge ut occepisti dicere.

Trach.
Vnum te obsecro, ut ted huius commiserescat mulieris,
si quidem hic lenonis eiust vidulus, quem suspicor;
hic, nisi de opinione, certum nil dico tibi.

Grip.
Viden? scelestus aucupatur.

Trach.
Sine me ut occepi loqui.
si scelesti illius est hic, cuius dico, vidulus,
haec poterunt novisse: ostendere his iube.

Grip.
Ain? ostendere?

Daem.
Haud iniquom dicit, Gripe, ut ostendatur vidulus.

G.
Immo hercle insignite inique.

D.
Quidum?

G.
Quia, si ostendero,
continuo hunc novisse dicent scilicet.

Trach.
Scelerum caput,
ut tute es, item omnis censes esse, periuri caput?

Grip.
Omnia istaéc ego facile patior, dúm hic hinc a me sentiat.

Trach.
At qui nunc abs te stat, verum hinc ... ibi testimonium.

Daem.
Gripe, advorte animum. tu paucis expedi, quid postulas.

Trach.
Dixi equidem, sed si parum intellexti, dicam denuo.
hasce ambas, ut dudum dixi, ita esse oportet liberas:
haec Athenis parva fúit virgo surpta.

Grip.
Dic mihi,
quid id ad vidulum pertinet, servae sint istae an fuerint liberae?

Trach.
Omnia iterum vis memorari, scelus, ut defiat dies.

Daem.
Apstine maledictis et mihi quod rogavi dilue.

Trach.
Cistellam isti inesse oportet caudeam ín isto vidulo,
ubi sunt signa qui parentes noscere haec possit suos,

quibuscum periit parva Athenis, sicuti dixi prius.

Grip.
Iuppiter te dique perdant. quid ais, vir venefice?
quid, istae mutae sunt, quae pro se fabulari non queant?

Trach.
Eo tacent, quia tacitast melior mulier semper quam loquens.

Grip.
Tum pol tu pro portione nec vir nec mulier mihi es.

T.
Quidum?

G.
Quia enim neque loquens es neque tacens umquam bonus.
quaeso, enumquam hodie licebit mihi loqui?

Daem.
Si praeterhac
unum verbum faxis hodie, ego tibi comminuam caput.

Trach.
Vt id occepi diceré, senex, eam te quaeso cistulam
ut iubeas hunc reddere illis; ob eam si quid postulat
sibi mercedis, dabitur: aliud quidquid ibi est habeat sibi.

Grip.
Nunc demum istuc dicis, quoniam ius meum esse intellegis:
dudum dimidiam petebas partem.

Trach.
Immo etiam nunc peto.

Grip.
Vidi petere miluom, etiam cum nihil auferret tamen.

Daem.
Non ego te comprimere possum sine malo?

Grip.
Si istic tacet,
ego tacebo; si iste loquitur, sine me pro parte loqui.

Daem.
Cedo modó mihi vidulum istum, Gripe.

Grip.
Concedam tibi,
ac, si istorum nil sit, ut mihi reddas.

Daem.
Reddetur.

Grip.
Tene.

Daem.
Audi nunciam, Palaestra atque Ampelisca, hoc quod loquor.
estne hic vidulus úbi cistellam tuam inesse aiebas?

Pal.
Is est.

Grip.
Perii hercle ego miser, uti, prius quam plane aspexit, ilico
eum esse dixit.

Pal.
Faciam ego hanc rem ex procliva planam tibi.
cistellam isti inesse oportet caudeam ín isto vidulo.
ibi ego dicam quidquid inerit nominatim: tu mihi
nullum ostenderis; si falsa dicam, frustra dixero,
vos tamen istaec, quidquid istic inerit, vobis habebitis;
sed si erunt véra, tum opsecro te, ut mea mi reddantur.

Daem.
Placet.
ius merum oras meo quidem animo.

Grip.
Át meo hercle iniuriam.
quid si ista aut superstitiosa aut hariolast atque omnia,
quidquid insit, vera dicet? anne habebit hariola?

Daem.
Non feret, nisi vera dicet: nequiquam hariolabitur.
solve vidulum ergo, ut quid sit verum quam primum sciam.

Grip.
Hoc habet, solutust.

Daem.
Aperi. video cistellam. haecinest?

Pal.
Istaec est. o mei parentes, hic vos conclusos gero,
huc opesque spesque vestrum cognoscendum condidi.

Grip.
Tum tibi hercle deos iratos esse oportet, quisquis es,
quae parentis tám in angustum tuos locum compegeris.

Daem.
Gripe, accede huc; tua res agitur. tu, puella, istinc procul
dicito quid insit et qua facie, memorato omnia.
si hercle tantillum peccassis, quod posterius postules
te ad verum convorti, nugas, mulier, magnas egeris.

Grip.
Ius bonum oras.

Trach.
Edepol haud te órat, nam tu iniuriu's.

Daem.
Loquere nunciam, puella. Gripe, animum advorte ac tace.

Pal.
Sunt crepundia.

Daem.
Ecca video.

Grip.
Perii in primo proelio.
mane, ne ostenderis.

Daem.
Qua facie sunt? responde ex ordine.

Pal.
Ensiculust aureolus primum litteratus.

Daem.
Dice dum,
in eo ensiculo litterarum quid est?

Pal.
Mei nomen patris.
post altrinsecust securicula ancipes, itidem aurea
litterata: ibi matris nomen in securiculast.

Daem.
Mane.
dic, in ensiculo quid nomen est paternum?

Pal.
Daemones.

Daem.
Di immortales, ubi loci sunt spes meae?

Grip.
Immo edepol meae?

Trach.
Pergite, opsecro, continuo.

Grip.
Placide, aut i in malam crucem.

Daem.
Loquere matris nomen hic quid in securicula siet.

Pal.
Daedalis.

Daem.
Di me servatum cupiunt.

Grip.
At me perditum.

Daem.
Filiam meam esse hánc oportet, Gripe.

Grip.
Sit per me quidem.
qui te di omnes perdant, qui me hodie oculis vidisti tuis,
meque adeo scelestum, qui non circumspexi centiens,
prius me ne quis inspectaret quam rete extraxi ex aqua.

Pal.
Post sicilicula argenteola et duae conexae maniculae et sucula.

Grip.
Quin tu i díerecta, cum sucula et cum porculis.

Pal.

Et bulla aurea est, pater quam dedit mi natali die.

Daem.
Ea est profecto. contineri quin complectar non queo.
filia mea, salve. ego is sum qui te produxi pater,
ego sum Daemones, et mater tua eccam hic intus Daedalis.

Pal.
Salve, mi pater insperate.

Daem.
Salve. ut te amplector libens.

Trach.
Volup est cum istuc ex pietate vestra vobis contigit.

Daem.
Cape dum, hunc si potes fer intro vidulum, age, Trachalio.

Trach.
Ecce Gripi scelera. cum istaec res male evenit tibi,
Gripe, gratulor.

Daem.
Age eamus, mea gnata, ad matrem tuam,
quae ex te poterit argumentis hanc rem magis exquirere,
quae te magis tractavit magisque signa pernovit tua. —

Trach.
Eamus intro ómnes, quando óperam promiscam damus. —

P.
Sequere me, Ampelisca. —

A.
Cum te di amant, voluptati est mihi. —

Grip.

Sumne ego sceléstus, qui illunc hodie excepi vidulum?
aut cum excepi, qui non alicubi in solo abstrusi loco?
credebam edepol turbulentam praedam eventuram mihi,
quia illa mihi tam turbulenta tempestate evenerat.
credo edepol ego illic inesse argenti et auri largiter.
quid meliust, quam ut hinc intro abeam et me suspendam clanculum,
saltem tantisper dum abscedat haec a me aegrimonia? —

Daemones
Pro di immortales, quis me est fortunatior,
qui ex improviso filiam inveni meam?
satin si cui homini dei esse bene factum volunt,
aliquo illud pacto optingit optatum piis?
ego hodie neque speravi neque illud credidi:
is improviso filiam inveni tamen;
et eam de genere summo adulescenti dabo
ingenuo, Atheniensi et cognato meo.
ego eum adeo arcessi huc ad me quam primum volo,
iussique exire huc servom éius, ut ad forum
iret; nondum egressum esse eum, id miror tamen.
accedam, opinor, ad fores. quid conspicor?
uxor complexa collo retinet filiam.
nimis paéne inepta atque odiosa eius amatiost.
Aliquando osculando meliust, uxor, pausam fieri;
atque adorna, ut rem divinam faciam, cum intro advenero,
Laribus familiaribus, cum auxerunt nostram familiam.
sunt domi agni et porci sacres. sed quid istúm remoramini,
mulieres, Trachalionem? atque optime eccum exit foras.

Trachalio
Vbi ubi erit, iam investigabo et mecum ad te adducam simul

Plesidippum.
Daem.
Eloquere ut haec res optigit de filia;
eum roga, ut relinquat alias res et huc veniat.

Trach.
Licet.

Daem.
Dicito daturum meam illi filiam uxorem.

Trach.
Licet.

Daem.
Et patrem eius me novisse et mi esse cognatum.

Trach.
Licet.

D.
Sed propera.

T.
Licet.

D.
Iam hic fac sit, cena ut curetur.

T.
Licet.
Daem.
Omnian licet?

Trach.
Licet. sed scin quid est quod te volo?
quod promisisti ut memineris, hodie ut liber sim.

Daem.
Licet.

Trach.
Fac ut exores Plesidippum, ut me manu emittat.

Daem.
Licet.

Trach.
Et tua filiá facito oret: facile exorabit.

Daem.
Licet.

Trach.
Atque ut mi Ampelisca nubat, ubi ego sim liber.

Daem.
Licet.

Trach.
Atque ut gratum mi beneficium factis experiar.

Daem.
Licet.

Trach.
Omnian licet?

Daem.
Licet: tibi rursum refero gratiam.
sed propera ire in urbem actutum et recipe te huc rursum.

T.
Licet.
iam hic ero. tu interibi adorna ceterum quod opust. —

Daem.
Licet.
Hercules istum infelicet cum sua licentia;
ita meas replevit auris, quidquid memorabam, licet.

Gripvs

Quam mox licet te compellare, Daemones?

Daem.
Quid est negoti, Gripe?

Grip.
De illo vidulo:
si sapias, sapias; habeas quod di dant boni.

Daem.
Aequom videtur tibi, ut ego, alienum quod est,
meum esse dicam?

Grip.
Quodne ego inveni in mari?

Daem.
Tanto illi melius optigit qui perdidit;
tuom esse nihilo magis oportet vidulum.

Grip.
Isto tu pauper es, quom nimis sancte pius.

Daem.
O Gripe, Gripe, in aetate hominum plurimae
fiunt trasennae, ubi decipiuntur dolis.
atque edepol in eas plerumque esca imponitur:
quam si quis avidus poscit escam avariter,
decipitur in trasenna avaritia sua.
ille quí consulte, docte atque astute cavet,
diutine uti bene licet partum bene.
mihi istaéc videtur praeda praedatum irier,
ut cum maiore dote abeat quam advenerit.
egone ut quod ad me allatum esse alienum sciam,
celem? minime istuc faciet noster Daemones.
semper cavere hoc sapientis aequissimumst,
ne conscii sint ipsi malefici suis.
ego mihi cum † lusi nil moror ullum lucrum.

Grip.
Spectavi ego pridem comicos ad istúnc modum
sapienter dicta dicere atque eis plaudier,
cum illos sapientis mores monstrabant poplo:
sed cum inde suam quisque ibant divorsi domum,
nullus erat illo pacto ut illi iusserant.

Daem.
Abi intro, ne molestu's, linguae tempera.
ego tibi daturus nil sum, ne tu frustra sis.

Grip.
At ego deos quaeso, ut quidquid ín illo vidulost,
si aurum si argentum est, omne id ut fiat cinis. —

Daem.
Illuc est quod nos nequam servis utimur.
nam illic cum † servo si quo congressus foret,
et ipsum sese et illum furti adstringeret;
dum praedam habere se censeret, interim
praeda ipsus esset, praeda praedam duceret.
nunc hinc intro ibo et sacrificabo, postibi
iubebo nobis cenam continuo coqui. —

Plesidippvs
Íterum mihi istaec omnia itera, mi anime, mi Trachalio,
mi liberte, mi patrone potius, immo mi pater.
repperit patrem Palaestra suom atque matrem?

Trachalio

Repperit.
Ples.
Et popularis est?

Trach.
Opino.

Ples.
Et mihi nuptura est?

Trach.
Suspicor.

Ples.
Censen hodie despondebit eam mihi, quaéso?

Trach.
Censeo.

Ples.
Quid? patri etiam gratulabor cum illam invenit?

Trach.
Censeo.

P.
Quid matri eius?

T.
Censeo.

P.
Quid ergo censes?

T.
Quod rogas,
censeo.

Ples.
Dic ergo quanti censes?

Trach.
Egone? censeo.

Ples.
Adsum equidem, ne censionem semper facias.

Trach.
Censeo.

P.
Quid si curram?

T.
Censeo.

P.
An sic potius placide?

T.
Censeo.

P.
Etiamne eam ádveniens salutem?

T.
Censeo.

P.
Etiam patrem?

T.
Censeo.

P.
Post eius matrem?

T.
Censeo.

P.
Quid postea?
etiamne adveniens complectar eius patrem?

Trach.
Non censeo.

P.
Quid matrem?

T.
Non censeo.

P.
Quid eampse illam?

T.
Non censeo.

Ples.
Perii, dilectum dimisit. nunc non censet, cum volo.

T.
Sanus non es. sequere. —

P.
Duc me, mi patrone, quo libet. —

ACT V.

Labrax
Quis me ést mortalis miserior qui vivat alter hodie,
quem ad recuperatores modo damnavit Plesidippus?
abiudicata a me modo est Palaestra. perditus sum.
nam lenones ex Gaudio credo esse procreatos,
ita omnés mortales, si quid est mali lenoni, gaudent.
nunc alteram illam quae mea est visam huc in Veneris fanum,
saltem ut eam abducam, de bonis quod restat reliquiarum.

Gripvs
Numquam edepol hodie ad vesperum Gripum inspicietis vivom,
nisi vidulus mihi redditur.

Labr.
Perii, cum mentionem
fieri audio usquam viduli ... quasi palo pectus tundat.

Grip.
Istic scelestus liber est: ego qui in mari prehendi
reti atque excepi vidulum, ei dáre negatis quicquam.

Labr.
Pro di immortales, suo mihi hic sermone arrexit aures.

Grip.
Cubitum hercle longis litteris signabo iam usquequaque,
si quis perdiderit vidulum cum auro atque argento multo,
ad Gripum ut veniat. non feretis istum, ut postulatis.

Labr.
Meum hercle illic homo vidulum scit quí habet, ut ego opinor.
adeundus mihi illic est homo. di, quaeso, subvenite.

Grip.
Quid me intro revocas? hoc volo hic ante ostium extergere.

nam hoc quidem pol e robigine, non est e ferro factum,
ita quanto magis extergeo, rutilum atque tenuius fit.
† nam quidem hoc venenatumst verum: ita in manibus
consenescit.

L.
Adulescens, salve.

G.
Di te ament cum inraso capite.

L.
Quid fit?

G.
Verum extergetur.

L.
Vt vales?

G.
Quid tu? num medicus, quaeso, es?

Labr.
Immo edepol una littera plus sum quam medicus.

Grip.
Tum tu
mendicus es?

Labr.
Tetigisti acu.

Grip.
Videtur digna forma.
sed quid tibi est?

Labr.

Hac proxima nocte in marí elavi.
confracta est navis, perdidi quidquid erat miser ibi omne.

Grip.
Quid perdidisti?

Labr.
Vidulum cum auro atque argento multo.

Grip.
Ecquid meministi, in vidulo qui periit quid ibi infuerit?

Labr.
Quid refert, qui periit tamen? sine hoc, áliud fabulemur.

Grip.
Quid si ego sciam qui invenerit? volo ex te scire signa.

Labr.
Nummi octingenti aúrei in marsuppio infuerunt,
praeterea centum minaria Philippa ín pasceolo sorsus.

Grip.
Magna hercle praedast, largiter mercedis indipiscar;
di homines respiciunt: bené ego hinc praedatus ibo.
profecto húius est vidulus. perge alia tu expedire.

Labr.
Talentum argenti commodum magnum inerat in crumina,
praeterea sinus, cantharus, epichysis, gaulus, cyathus.

Grip.
Papae, divitias tu quidém habuisti luculentas.

Labr.
Miserum istuc verbum et pessimum est, habuisse, et nihil habere.

Grip.

Quid dare velis, qui istaec tibi investiget indicetque?
eloquere propere celeriter.

Labr.
Nummos trecentos.

Grip.
Tricas.

L.
Quadringéntos.

G.
Tramas putidas.

L.
Quingentos.

G.
Cassam glandem.

Labr.
Sescentos.

Grip.
Curculiunculos minutos fabulare.

Labr.
Dabo séptingentos.

Grip.
Os calet tibi, nunc id frigefactas.

Labr.
Millé dabo nummum.

Grip.
Somnias.

Labr.
Nihil addo.

Grip.
Abi igitur.

Labr.
Audi:
si hercle abiero hinc, hic non ero. vin centum et mille?

Grip.
Dormis.

Labr.
Eloquere quantum postules.

Grip.
Quo nihil invitus addas:
talentum magnum. non potest triobolum hinc abesse.
proin tú vel aias vel neges.

Labr.
Quid istíc? necessum est, video:
dabitur talentum.

Grip.
Accede dum huc: Venus haec volo adroget te.

Labr.
Quod tibi libet id mi impera.

Grip.
Tange aram hanc Veneris.

Labr.
Tango.

G.

Per Venerem hanc iurandum est tibi.

L.
Quid iurem?

G.
Quod iubebo.

Labr.
Praei vérbis quidvis. íd quod domi est, numquam ulli supplicabo.

G.
Tene aram hanc.

L.
Teneo.

C.
Deiera te mi argentum daturum
eodém die, tui viduli ubi sis potitus.

Labr.
Fiat.

Grip.
Venus Cýrenensis, testem te testor mihi,
si vidulum illum, quém ego in navi perdidi,
cum auro atque argento salvom investigavero
isque in potestatem meam pervenerit,
tum ego húic Gripo, ínquito, et me tangito —

Labr.
Tum ego húic Gripo (dico, Venus, ut tu audias)
talentum argenti magnum continuo dabo.

Grip.
Si quid fraudassis, dic ut te in quaestu tuo
Venus eradicet, caput atque aetatem tuam.

tecum hoc habeto tamen, ubi iuraveris.

Labr.
Illaec advorsum si quid peccasso, Venus,
veneror te ut omnes miseri lenones sient.

Grip.
Tamen fíet, etsi tu fidem servaveris.
tu hic opperire, iam ego faxo exibit senex;
eum tú continuo vidulum reposcito. —

Labr.
Si maxime mi illum reddiderit vidulum,
non ego illi hodie debeo triobolum.
meus arbitratust, lingua quod iuret mea.
sed conticiscam: eccum exit et ducit senem.

Gripvs
Séquere hac.

Daemones
Vbi istic lenost?

Grip.
Heus tu. ém tibi, hic habet vidulum.

Daem.
Habeo et fateor esse apud me, et, si tuos est, habeas tibi.
omnia, ut quídquid infuit, ita salva sistentur tibi.
tene, si tuost.

Labr.
O di immortales, meus est. salve, vidule.

D.
Tuosne est?

L.

Rogitas? si quidem hercle Iovis fuit, meus est tamen.

Daem.
Omnia insunt salva; una istinc cistella excepta est modo
cum crepundiis, quibuscum hódie filiam inveni meam.

Labr.
Quam?

Daem.
Tua quae fuit Palaestra, ea filia inventast mea.

Labr.
Bene mehercle factum est. cum istaec res tibi ex sententia
pulchre evenit, gaudeo.

Daem.
Istuc facile non credo tibi.

Labr.
Immo hercle, ut scias gaudere me, mihi triobolum
ob eam ne duis, condono te.

Daem.
Benigne edepol facis.

L.
Immo tu quidem hercle vero.

G.
Heus tu, iám habes vidulum.

L.
Habeo.

G.
Propera.

L.

Quid properabo?

G.
Reddere argentum mihi.

L.
Neque edepol tibi do, neque quicquam debeo.

G.
Quae haec factio est?
non debes?

Labr.
Non hercle vero.

Grip.
Non tu iuratus mihi es?

Labr.
Iuratus sum, et nunc iurabo, si quid vóluptati est mihi:
ius iurandum rei servandae, non perdendae conditum est.

Grip.
Cedo sis mihi talentum magnum argenti, periurissime.

Daem.
Gripe, quod tu istum talentum poscis?

Grip.
Iuratust mihi
dare.

Labr.
Libet iurare. tun meo póntifex peiurio es?

Daem.
Qua pro re argentum promisit hic tibi?

Grip.

Si vidulum
hunc redegissem in potestatem eius, iuratust dare
mihi talentum magnum argenti.

Labr.
Cedo quicum habeam iudicem,
ni dolo malo instipulatus sis nive etiamdum haud siem
quinque et viginti annos natus.

G.
Habe cum hóc.

L.
Aliost opus.

Daem.
Iám ab isto auferre haud potis sim, si istunc condemnavero.
promisistin huic argentum?

Labr.
Fateor.

Daem.
Quod servo meo
promisisti, meum esse oportet, ne tu, leno, postules
te hic fide lenonia uti: non potes.

Grip.
Iam te ratu's
nactum hominem quem defraudares? dandum huc argentum est
probum:
id ego continuo huic dabo adeo, mé ut hic emittat manu.

Daem.
Quando ergo erga te benignus ego fui atque opera mea
haec tibi sunt servata —

Grip.

Immo hercle mea, ne tu dicas tua.

Daem.
(Si sapies, tacebis) tum te mihi benigne itidem addecet
bene merenti bene referre gratiam.

Labr.
Nempe pró meo
iure oras?

Daem.
Mirum quin tuom ius meo periclo aps te expetam.

Grip.
Salvos sum, leno labascit, libertas portenditur.

Daem.
Vidulum istunc ille invenit, illud mancipium meum est;
ego tibi hunc porro servavi cum magna pecunia.

Labr.
Gratiam habeo, et de talento nulla causa est quin feras,
quod isti sum iuratus.

Grip.
Heus tu, mihi dato ergo, si sapis.

Daem.
Tacen an non?

Grip.
Tu meam rem simulas agere, tibi mu ... .
non hercle istoc me intervortes, si aliam praedam perdidi.

Daem.
Vapulabis, verbum si addis istúc unum.

Grip.

Vel hercle énica,
non tacebo umquam alio pacto, nisi talento comprimor.

Labr.
Tibi operam hic quidem dát. tace.

Daem.
Concede hoc tu, leno.

Labr.
Licet.

Grip.
Palam age, nolo ego murmurillum neque susurrum fieri.

Daem.
Dic mihi, quanti íllam emisti tuam alteram mulierculam,
Ampeliscam?

Labr.
Mille nummum denumeravi.

Daem.
Vin tibi
condicionem luculentam ferre me?

Labr.
Sane volo.

D.
Dividuom talentum faciam.

L.
Bene facis.

D.
Pro illa altera,
libera ut sit, dimidium tibi sume, dimidium huc cedo.

Labr.
Maxime.

Daem.
Pro illo dimidio égo Gripum emittam manu,
quem propter tu vidulum et ego gnatam inveni.

Labr.
Bene facis,
gratiam habeo magnam.

Grip.
Quam mox mi argentum ergo redditur?

Daem.
Res soluta est, Gripe. ego habeo.

Grip.
Át ego me hercle mavolo.

Daem.
Nihil hercle hic tibi est, né tu speres. iuris iurandi volo
gratiam facias.

Grip.
Perii hercle. nisi me suspendo, occidi.
numquam hercle iterum defraudabis me quidem post hunc diem.

Daem.
Hic hodie cenato, leno.

Labr.
Fiat, condicio placet.

Daem.
Sequimini intro. spectatores, vos quoque ad cenam vocem,
ni daturus nil sim neque sit quicquam pollucti domi,
nive adeo vocatos credam vos esse ad cenam foras.

verum si voletis plausum fabulae huic clarum dare,
comissatum omnes venitote ad me ad annos sedecim.
vos hic hodie cenatote ambó.

Labr.
Fiat.

Daem.
Plausum date.

STICHUS

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ACT I.

Panegyris
Crédo egó miserám
fuísse Penelopam,
sorór, suo ex animo,
quae tám diu vidua
viró suo caruit;
nam nós eius ánimum
de nóstris factis nóscimus, quarúm viri hinc ápsunt,
quorúmque nos negótiis apséntum, ita ut aéquom est,
sollícitae noctes ét dies, sorór, sumus sémper.

Soror
Nostrum ófficium
nos fácere aequomst,
neque id mágis facimus
quam nós monet píetas.
sed híc, soror, assíde dum: multá volo tecum
loquí de re viri.

Pan.
Salvéne, amabo?

Sor.
Speró quidem et volo; sed hóc, soror, crúcior,
patrém tuom meúmque adeo, unice qui unus †
civíbus ex omnibus probús perhibetur,
eúm nunc improbi viri ófficio uti,
virís qui tantas apséntibus nóstris
facit íniurias immérito
nosque áb eis abducére volt.
haec rés vitae me, sóror, saturant,
haec míhi dividiae et sénio sunt.

Pan.

Ne lácruma, soror, neu túo id animo
fac quod tíbi tuos pater faceré minatur:
spes ést eum melius fácturum.
novi égo illum: ioculo istaec dicit,
neque illé sibi mereat Pérsarum
montís, qui esse aurei pérhibentur,
ut istúc faciat quod tú metuis.
tamen sí faciat, minime irasci
decet, néque id immerito evéniet.
nam víri nostri domo ut ábierunt,
hic tértius annus.

Sor.
Ita út memoras.

Pan.
Quom ipsi ínterea vivánt, valeant,
ubi sínt, quid agant, ecquíd agant,
neque párticipant nos, néque redeunt.

Sor.
An id dóles, soror, quia illi suom ófficium
non cólunt, quom tu tuom fácis?

Pan.
Ita pol.

Sor.
Tace sís, cave sis audíam ego istuc
posthác ex te.

Pan.
Nam quíd iam?

Sor.
Quia pól meo animo omnis sápientis
suom offícium aequom est colere ét facere.
quam ob rem égo te hoc, soror, tametsi és maior,

moneo, út tuom memineris ófficium:
etsi ílli improbi sint átque aliter
nobís faciant quam aequómst, tam pol
ne quíd magis simus ... omnibus obníxe opibus
nostrum ófficium meminísse decet.

Pan.
Placet; táceo.

Sor.
At memineris fácito.

Pan.
Nolo égo, soror, me credi esse immemorem viri,
neque ille éos honores, mihi quos habuit, perdidit;
nam pol mihi grata acceptaque eiust benignitas.
et me quidem haec condicio nunc non paenitet,
neque est cur non studeam has nuptias mutarier;
verum postremo in patris potestate est situm:
faciendum id nobis quod parentes imperant.

Sor.
Scio, atque in cogitando maerore augeor,
nam propemodum iam ostendit suam sententiam.

Pan.
Igitur quaeramus, nobis quid facto usus sit.

Antipho
Quí manet ut moneatur semper servos homo officium suom
nec voluntáte id facere meminit, servos is habitu hau probust.
vos meministis quot kalendis petere demensum cibum:
qui minus méministis quod opus sit facto facere in aedibus?
iam quidem in súo quicqué loco nisi erit mihi situm supellectilis,
quom ego revortar, vos monimentis commonefaciam bubulis.
non homines habitare mecum mi hic videntur, sed sues.
facite sultis, nitidae ut aedes meae sint, quom redeam domum.
iam ego domi adero: ad meam maiorem filiam inviso modo;

siquis me quaéret, inde vocátote aliqui; aut iam egomet hic ero.

Sor.
Quid agimus, soror, si óffirmabit pater adversum nos?

Pan.

Pati
nos oportet quod ille faciat, cuius potestas plus potest.
exorando, haud adversando sumendam operam censeo:
gratiam per si petimus, spero áb eo impetrassere;
adversari sine dedecore et scelere summo haud possumus,
neque equidem id factura neque tu ut facias consilium dabo,
verum ut exoremus. novi ego nostros: exorabilest.

Ant.
Principium ego quo pacto cum illis occipiam, id ratiocinor:
utrum ego perplexim lacessam oratione ad hunc modum,
quasi numquam quicquam in eas simulem, quasi nil indaudiverim
eas in se meruisse culpam, an potius temptem saeviter,
an minaciter. scio litis fore, ego meas novi optume.
si manere hic sese malint potius quam alio nubere.
non faciam. quid mi ópust decurso aetatis spatio cum meis
gerere bellum, quom nil, quam ob rem id faciam, meruisse
arbitror?
minime, nolo turbas, séd hoc mihi optumum factu arbitror:
sic faciam: adsimulabo quasi quam culpam in sese admiserint.
perplexabilitér earum hodie perpavefaciam pectora;
post id agam igitur deinde, ut animus meus erit, faciam palam.
multa scio faciunda verba. ibo intro. sed apertast foris.

Sor.
Certo enim míhi paternae vocis sonitus auris accidit.

Pan.
Is est ecastor. ferre advorsum homini occupemus osculum.

Sor.

Salve, mi pater.

Ant.
Et vos ambae. ílico agite assidite.

Sor.
Osculum —

Ant.
Sat est ósculi mihi vostri.

Pan.
Quí, amabo, pater?

Ant.
Quia ita meae animae salsura evenit.

Sor.
Asside hic, pater.

Ant.
Non sedeo istic, vos sedete; ego sedero in subsellio.

Pan.
Mane pulvinum.

Ant.
Bene procuras. mihi satis sic fultumst. sede.

Sor.
Sine, pater.

Ant.
Quid opust?

Pan.
Opust.

Ant.

Mórem tibi geram. atque hoc est satis.

Sor.
Numquam enim nímis curare possunt suom parentem filiae.
quem aequiust nós potiorem habere quam te? postidea, pater,
viros nostros, quibus tú voluisti ésse nos matres familias.

Ant.
Bonas ut aequomst facere facitis, quom tamen apsentis viros
proinde habetis quasi praesentes sint.

Sor.
Pudicitiast, pater,
eos nos magnificare, qui nos socias sumpserunt sibi.

Ant.
Num quis hic ést alienus nostris dictis auceps auribus?

Pan.
Nullus praeter nosque teque.

Ant.
Vostrum animum adhiberi volo;
nám ego ad vos nunc imperitus rerum et morum mulierum,
discipulus venio ad magistras: quibus matronas moribus,
quae optumae sunt, esse oportet? sed utraque ut dicat mihi.

Sor.
Quid istuc est quod huc éxquaesitum mulierum mores venis?

Ant.
Pol ego uxorem quaero, postquam vostra mater mortuast.

Sor.
Facile invenies et peiorem et peius moratam, pater,
quam illa fuit: meliorem neque tu reperies neque sol videt.

Ant.

At ego ex te éxquaero atque ex istac tua sorore.

Sor.
Edepol pater,
scio ut oportet esse: si sint — ita ut ego aequom censeo.

A.
Volo scire ergo, ut aequom censes.

S.
Vt, per urbem quom ambulent,
omnibus os opturent, ne quis merito male dicat sibi.

Ant.
Dic vicissim nunciam tu.

Pan.
Quid vis tibi dicam, pater?

Ant.
Vbi facillime spectatur mulier, quae ingenio est bono?

Pan.
Quoi male faciundi est potestas, quae ne id faciat temperat.

Ant.
Hau male istuc. age tu altera, utra sit condicio pensior,
virginemne an viduam habere?

Sor.
Quanta méa sapientiast,
ex malis multis malum quod minimumst, id minimest malum.

Ant.
Qui potest mulier vitare vitiis?

Sor.
Vt cottidie

pridie caveat ne faciat quod pigeat postridie.

Ant.
Quae tibi muliér videtur multo sapientissuma?

Pan.
Quae tamen, cum res secundae sunt, se poterit noscere,
et illa quae aequo animo patietur sibi esse peius quam fuit.

Ant.
Edepol vos lepide temptavi vostrumque ingenium ingeni.
sed hoc est quod ad vos venio quodque esse ambas conventas volo:
mi auctores ita sunt amici, ut vos hinc abducam domum.

Sor.
At enim nos, quarum res agitur, aliter auctores sumus.
nam aut olim, nisi tibi placebant, non datas oportuit,
aut nunc non aequomst abduci, pater, illisce apsentibus.

Ant.
Vosne ego patiar cum mendicis nuptas me vivo viris?

Sor.
Placet ille meus mihi mendicus: suos rex reginae placet.
idem animust in paupertate qui olim in divitiis fuit:

Ant.
Vosne latrones et mendicos homines magni penditis?

Sor.
non tu me argento dedisti, opinor, nuptum, sed viro.

Ant.
Quid illos exspectatis, quí abhinc iam abierunt triennium?
quin vos capitis condicionem ex pessuma primariam?

Pan.

Stultitiast, pater, venatum ducere invitas canes.
hostis est uxor, invita quae viro nuptum datur.

Ant.
Certumne est neutram vostrarum persequi imperium patris?

Pan.
Persequimur, nam quo dedisti nuptum, abire nolumus.

Ant.
Bene valete. ibo atque amicis vostra consilia eloquar.

Pan.
Probiores credo arbitrabunt, si probis narraveris.

Ant.
Curate igitur familiarem rem ut potestis.

Pan.
Optume,
nunc places, quom recte monstras; nunc tibi auscultabimus.
nunc, soror, abeamus intro.

Sor.
Ímmo intervisam domum.
si a viro tibi forte veniet nuntius, facito ut sciam. —

Pan.
Neque ego te celabo, neque tu me celassis quod scias.
eho, Crocotium, i, parasitum Gelasimum huc arcessito,
tecum adduce; nam illum ecastor mittere ad portum volo,
si quae forte ex Asia navis heri aut hodie venerit.
nam dies totos apud pórtum servos unus assidet;
sed tamen volo intervisi. propera atque actutum redi. —

Gelasimvs
Famem ego fuisse suspicor matrem mihi,
nam postquam natus sum, satur numquam fui.

neque quisquam melius referet matri gratiam
quam egó meae matri refero ínvitissimus.
neque rettulit, quam ego refero meae matri Fami.
nam illa me in alvo menses gestavit decem,
at ego illam in alvo gesto plus annos decem.
atque illa puerum me gestavit parvolum,
quo minus laboris cepisse illam existumo:
ego non pauxillulam in utero gesto famem,
verum hercle multo maximam et gravissimam;
uteri dolores mihi oboriuntur cotidie, †
sed matrem parere nequeo, nec quid agam scio.
atque auditavi saepe hoc volgo dicier,
solere elephantum gravidam perpetuos decem
esse annos; eius ex sémine haec certost fames,
nam iam complures annos utero haeret meo.
nunc si ridiculum hominem quaerat quispiam,
venalis ego sum cum ornamentis omnibus;
inanimentis explementum quaerito.
Gelasimo nomen mi indidit parvo pater,
quia inde iam a pausillo puero ridiculus fui. †
propter pauperiem hoc adeo nomen repperi,
eo quía paupertas fecit ridiculus forem;
nam illa artis omnis perdocet, ubi quem attigit.
per annónam caram dixit me natum pater:
propterea, credo, nunc essurio ácrius.
sed generi nostro haec redditast benignitas:
nulli negare soleo, siquis me essúm vocat.
oratio una interiit hominum pessume,
atque optuma hercle meo animo et scitissuma,
qua ante utebantur: “véni illo ad cenam, sic face,
promitte vero, ne gravare. est commodum?
volo inquam fieri, non amittam quin eas.”
nunc reppererunt iam ei verbo vicarium
(nihili quidem hercle verbumst ac vilissimum):
‘vocem te ad cenam, nisi egomet cenem foris.’
ei hércle ego verbo lumbos diffractos velim,
ni vere perierit, si cenassit domi.

haec verba subigunt mé uti mores barbaros
discam atque ut faciam praeconis compendium
itaque auctionem praedicem, ipse ut venditem.

Crocotivm
Hic illést parasitus, quem arcessitum missa sum.
quae loquitur auscultabo prius quam conloquar.

Gel.

Sed curiosi sunt hic complures mali,
alienas res qui curant studio maximo,
quibus ipsis nullast res, quam procurent, sua:
ei quando quem auctionem facturum sciunt,
adeunt, perquirunt quid sit causae ilico:
alienum aes cogat an pararit praedium,
uxorin sit reddenda dos divortio.
eos ómnis tametsi hercle haud indignos iudico
qui multum miseri sint, laborent, nil moror:
dicam auctionis causam, ut damno gaudeant;
nam curiosus nemo est quin sit malevolus.
ipse egomet quam ob rem aúctionem praedicem
damna evenerunt maxuma misero mihi,
ita me mancupia miserum adfecerunt male,
potationes plurumae demortuae,
quot adeo cenae, quas deflevi, mortuae,
quot potiones mulsi, quae autem prandia,
quae inter continuom perdidi triennium.
prae maerore adeo miser atque aegritudine
consenui; paene sum famé emortuos.

Croc.
Ridiculus aeque nullus est quando esurit.

Gel.

Nunc auctionem facere decretumst mihi:
foras necessumst quidquid habeo vendere.

adeste sultis, praeda erit praesentium.
logos ridiculos vendo. áge licemini.
qui cena poscit? ecqui poscit prandio?
hercle aestumavi prandio, cena tibi.
ehem, adnuistin? nemo meliores dabit.
nulli meliores esse parasito sinam.
vel unctiones Graecas sudatorias
vendo vel alias malacas, crapularias;
cavillátiones, adsentatiunculas
ac perieratiunculas parasiticas;
robiginosam strigilem, ampullam rubidam,
parasitum inanem quo recondas reliquias.
haec veniisse iám opus est quantum potest,
ut decumam partem Hérculi polluceam.

Croc.
Ecastor auctionem haúd magni preti.
adhaesit homini ad infimum ventrem fames.
adibo ad hominem.

Gel.

Quis haec est quae advorsum it mihi?
Epignómi ancilla haéc quidem est Crocotium.

Croc.
Gelasime, salve.

Gel.

Non id est nomen mihi.

Croc.
Certo mecastor id fuit nomen tibi.

Gel.

Fuit disertim, verum id usu perdidi:

nunc Miccotrogus nomine e vero vocor.

C.
† Eu ecastor, risi te hodie multum.

G.
Quando aut quo in loco?

Croc.
Hic quom auctionem praedicabas,

Gel.

Pessuma,
eho an audivisti?

Croc.
Te quidem dignissumam.

G.
Quo nunc is?

C.
Ad te.

G.
Quid venis?

C.
Panegyris
rogare iussit ted ut opere maximo,
mecum simitu ut ires ad sese domum.

Gel.

Ego illo mehercle vero eo quantum potest.
iamne exta cocta sunt? quot agnis fecerat?

Croc.

Illa quidem nullum sacrificavit.

Gel.

Quo modo?
quid igitur me volt?

Croc.
Tritici modios decem
rogare, opinor te volt.

Gel.

Mene, ut ab sese petam?

Croc.
Immo ut a vobis mutuom nobis dares.

Gel.

Nega esse quod dem nec mihi nec mutuom,
neque aliud quicquam nisi hoc quod habeo pallium;
linguam quoque etiam vendidi datariam.

Croc.
Au,
nullan tibi lingua est?

Gel.

Quae quidem dicat ‘dabo’;
ventri reliqui eccam aliam quae dicat ‘cedo’.

Croc.
Malum quidem sí vis —

Gel.

Haec eadem dicit tibi.

Croc.
Quid nunc? iturus an non?

Gel.

Abi sane domum,
iam illo venturum dicito. propera atque abi. —
demiror quid illaec me ad se arcessi iusserit,
quae numquam iussit me ad se arcessi ante hunc diem,
postquam vir abiit eius. miror quid siet,
nisi ut periclum fiat: visam quid velit.
sed eccum Pinacium eius puerum. hoc vide,
satin ut facete, aeque atque ex pictura, astitit?
ne iste edepol vinum poculo pauxillulo
saepe exanclavit submerum scitissume.

ACT II.

Pinacivm
Mercúrius, Iovis qui núntius perhibétur, numquam aequé patri
suo núntium lepidum áttulit quam égo nunc meae erae núntiabo:
ítaque onustum péctus porto laétitia lubéntiaque
néque lubet nisi gloriose quicquam proloqui profecto.
amoénitates omnium venerum et venustatum adfero
ripísque superat mi atque abundat pectus laetitia meum.
própera, Pinacium, pedes hortare, honesta dicta factis
(nunc tíbi potestas adipiscendist gloriam laudem decus)
eraéque egenti subveni, benefacta maiorum tuom
quae mísera in exspectatione est Epignomi adventum viri.
proinde út decet, amat vírum suom, cupide expetit. nunc, Pinacium,
age út placet, curre ut lubet, cave quémquam flocci feceris,
cubitis depulsa de via, tranquillam concinna viam;
si rex obstabit obviam, regem ipsum prius pervortito.

Gel.

Quídnam dicam Pínacium
lascívibundum tam lubentem currere?
harúndinem fert sportulamque et hamulum piscarium.

Pin.
Sed tandem, opinor, aequiust eram mihi esse supplicem
atque óratores mittere ad me donaque ex auro et quadrigas,
quí vehar, nam pedibus ire non queo. ergo iam revortar.
ad me adiri et supplicari égomet mi aequom censeo.
an véro nugas censeas, nihil esse quod ego nunc scio?
tantum a portu adporto bonum, tam gaudium grande adfero,
vix ipsa domina hoc, nisi sciat, exoptare ab deis audeat.
nunc ultro id deportem? hau placet, neque id viri officium arbitror.
sic hoc videtur mihi magis meo cónvenire huic nuntio:
adversum veniat, opsecret, se ut nuntio hoc impertiam;
secundas fortunas decent superbiae.

sed tandem cum recogito, qui potuit scire haec scire me?
nón enim póssum quin revortar, quin loquar, quin edissertem
erámque ex maerore eximam, bene facta maiorum meum
exaugeam atque illam augeam insperato opportuno bono:
contundam facta Talthubi contemnamque omnis nuntios;
símulque ad cursuram meditabor me ad ludos Olympios.
sed spátium hoc occidit: brevest curriculo; quam me paenitet.
quid hoc? occlusam ianuam video. ibo et pultabo fores.
aperíte atque adproperáte, fores facite út pateant, removéte moram;
nimis haéc res sine curá geritur. vide quám dudum hic asto ét pulto.
somnóne operam datis? éxperiar, fores án cubiti ac pedes plús
valeant.
nimis véllem hae fores erum fúgissent, ea caúsa ut haberent
malum magnum;
defésSus sum pultándo.
hoc póstremumst. vae vobis.

Gel.

Ibo átque hunc compellábo.
salvós sis.

Pin.
Et tu sálve.

Gel.

Iam tú piscator fáctu's?

Pin.
Quam prídem non edísti?

G.
Vnde ís? quid fers? quid féstinas?

P.
Tua quód nil refert, né cures.

G.
Quid istíc inest?

P.
Quas tu edés colubras.

G.
Quid tam íracundu's?

Pin.
Si ín te
pudor ádsit, non me appélles.

Gel.

Possúm scire ex te vérum?

Pin.
Potes: hódie non cenábis.

Panegyris
Quisnam, ópsecro, has frangit fóres? ubi est?
tun haéc facis? tun mihi huc hóstis venis?

Gel.

Salvé, tuo arcessitú venio huc.

Pan.
Ean grátia fores effríngis?

Gel.

Tuos ínclama, tui délinquont: ego quíd me velles vísebam;
nam mé quidem harum míserebat.

Pin.
Ergo aúxilium properé latumst.

Pa.
Quisnam híc loquitur tam própe nos?

Pi.
Pinacium.

Pa.
Úbi is est?

Pin.
Réspice ad me et relínque egentem párasitum, Panégyris.

Pan.
Pinacium.

Pin.
Istuc indiderunt nomen maiores mihi.

Pan.
Quid agis?

Pin.
Quid agam rogitas?

Pan.
Quidni rogitem?

Pin.
Quid mecum est tibi?

Pan.
Mein fastidis, propudiose? eloquere propere, Pinacium.

Pi.
Iube me omittere igitur hos, qui retinent.

Pa.
Qui retinent?
PI.

Rogas?
omnia membra lassitudo mihi tenet.

Pan.
Linguam quidem
sat scio tibi non tenere.

Pin.
Ita celeri curriculo fui
propere a portu, tui honoris causa.

Pan.
Ecquid adportas boni?

Pin.
Nimio † inparti multo tanto plus quam speras.

Pan.
Salva sum.

Pin.
At ego perii, quoi medullam lassitudo perbibit.

Gel.

Quid ego, quoi misero medullam ventris percepit fames.

Pan.
Ecquem convenisti?

Pin.
Multos.

Pan.
At virum?

Pin.
Equidem plurimos:
verum ex multis nequiorem nullum quám hic est.

Gel.

Quo modo?
iam dudum ego ístum patior dicere iniuste mihi.
praeterhac si me inritassis —

Pin.
Edepol essuries male.

Gel.

Animum inducam, ut istuc verum te elocutum esse arbitrer.

Pin.
Munditias volo fieri. ecferte huc scopas simulque harundinem,
ut operam omnem araneorum perdam et texturam improbem
deiciamque eorum ómnis telas.

Gel.

Miseri algebunt postea.

Pin.
Quid? illos itidemne esse censes quasi te, cum veste unica?
cape illas scopas.

Gel.

Cápiam.

Pin.
Hoc egomet, tu hoc converre.

Gel.

Ego fecero.

Pin.
Ecquis huc effert nassiternam cúm aqua?

Gel.

Sine suffragio
populi tamen aedilitatem hic quidém gerít.

Pin.
Age tu ocius
† pinge, humum consperge ante aedis.

G.
Faciam.

P.
Factum oportuit.
ego hinc araneas de foribus deiciam et de pariete.

Gel.

Edepol rem negotiosam.

Pan.
Quid sit, nil etiam scio,
nisi forte hospites venturi sunt.

Pin.
Vos lectos sternite.

Gel.

Principium placet de lectis.

Pin.
Alii ligna caedite,
alii piscis depurgate, quos piscatu rettuli,
pernam et glandium deicite.

Gel.

Hic hercle homo nimium sapit.

Pan.
Non ecastor, ut ego opinor, satis erae morem geris.

Pin.
Immo res omnis relictas habeo prae quod tu velis.

Pan.
Tum tu igitur, qua causa missus es ad portum, id expedi.

Pin.
Dicam. postquam me misisti ad portum, cum luci simul,
commodum radiosus sese sol superabat ex mari.
dum percontor portitores, ecquae navis venerit
ex Asia, negant venisse, conspicatus sum interim
cercurum, quo ego me maiorem non vidisse censeo.
in portum vento secundo, velo passo pervenit.
alius alium percontamur: quoiast navis? quid vehit?
interibi Epignomúm conspicio tuom virum et servom Stichum.

Pan.
Hem quid? Epignomum elocutu's?

Pin.
Tuom virum.

Gel.

Et vitam meam.

Pin.
Venit inquam.

Pan.
Tutin ipsus ipsum vidisti?

Pin.
Lubens.
argentí aurique advexit nimium.

Gel.

Nimis factum bene.
hercle vero capiam scopas atque hoc convorram lubens.

Pin.
Lanam purpuramque multam.

Gel.

Em qui ventrem vestiam.

Pin.
Lectos eburatos, auratos.

Gel.

Accubabo regie.

Pin.
Tum Babylonica et peristroma tonsilia et tappetia
advexit, nimium bonae rei.

Gel.

Hercle rem gestam bene.

Pin.
Poste, ut occepi narrare, fidicinas, tibicinas,
sambucas advexit secum forma eximia.

Gel.

Eugepae,
quando adbibero, adludiabo: tum sum ridiculissumus.

Pin.
Poste unguenta multigenerum multa.

Gel.

Non vendo logos.
iam non facio aúctionem, mi optigit hereditas:
malivoli, perquisitores auctionum, perierint.
Hercules, decumam esse adauctam tibi quam vovi gratulor.
spes est, tandem aliquando inportunam exigere ex utero famem.

Pin.
Poste autem advexit parasitos secum.

Gel.

Ei, perii miser.

Pin.
Ridiculissumos.

Gel.

Revorram hercle hoc quod converri modo.

Pan.
Vidistin virum sororis Pamphilum?

Pin.
Non.

Pan.
Non adest?

Pin.
Immo venisse eum simitu aiebat ille: ego huc citus
praecucurri, ut nuntiarem nuntium exoptabilem.

Gel.

Venales logi sunt illi, quos negabam vendere.
ilicet, iam meo malost quod malevolentes gaudeant.

Hercules, qui deus sis, sane discessisti non bene.

Pan.
I intro, Pinacium, iube fámulos rem divinam mi apparent.
bene vale.

Gel.

Vin administrem?

Pan.
Sat servorum habeo domi. —

Gel.

Enim vero, Gelasime, opinor provenisti futtile,
si neque ille adest neque hic, qui venit, quicquam subvenit.
ibo intro ad libros et discam de dictis melioribus;
nam ni illos homines expello, ego occidi planissume. —

ACT III.

Epignomvs
Quom bene re gesta salvos convortor domum,
Neptuno grates habeo et Tempestatibus;
simul Mercurio, qui me in mercimoniis
iuvit lucrisque quadruplicavit rem meam.
olim quos abiens adfeci aegrimonia,
eos núnc laetantis faciam ádventu meo.
nam iam Antiphonem conveni adfinem meum
cumque eo reveni ex inimicitia in gratiam.
videte, quaeso, quid potest pecunia:
quoniam bene gesta re rediisse me videt
magnasque adportavisse divitias domum,
sine advocatis ibidem in cercuro in stega
in amicitiam atque in gratiam convortimus.
et is hodie apud me cenat et frater meus;
nam heri ambo in uno portu fuimus, sed mea
hodie solutast navis aliquanto prius.
age abdúce hasce intro, quas mecum adduxi, Stiche.

Stichvs
Ere, sí ego taceam seu loquar, scio scire te
quam multas tecum miserias mulcaverim.
nunc hunc diem unum ex illis multis miseriis
volo mé eleutheria capere advenientem domum.

Epig.
Et ius et aequom postulas: sumas, Stiche.
in hunc diem te nil moror; abi quo lubet.
cadum tibi veteris vini propino.

St.
Papae,
ducam hodie amicam.

Epig.

Vel decem, dum de tuo.

S.
Quid? hoc etiam unum?

E.
Quid id autem unumst? expedi.

Stich.
Ad cenam ibone?

Epig.
Si vocatu's, censeo.

Stich.
Sic hoc placet; rogatu necne, nil moror.

Epig.
Vbi cenas hodie?

Stich.
Sic hanc rationem institi:
amicam ego habeo Stephanium hinc ex proxumo,
tui frátris ancillam: eo condixi in symbolam
ad cenam, ad eius consérvom Sangarinum Syrum.
eademst amica ambobus, rivales sumus.

Epig.
Age abduce hasce intro. hunc tibi dedo diem.

Stich.
Meam culpam habeto, nisi probe excruciavero.
iam hercle ego per hortum ad amicam transibo meam
mi hanc occupatum noctem; eadem symbolam
dabo et iubebo ad Sangarinum cenam coqui.
aut egomet ibo atque opsonabo opsonium.
Sangarinus scio iam hic aderit cum domino suo,
servos homo, qui nisi temperi ad cenam meat,

advorsitores pol cum verberibus decet
dari, uti eum verberabundi adducant domum.
parata res faciam ut sit. egomet me moror.
atque id ne vos miremini, hominis servolos
potare, amare atque ad cenam condicere:
licet haec Athenis nobis. sed quom cogito,
potius quam invidiam inveniam, est etiam hic ostium
aliud posticum nostrarum harunc aedium:
posticam partem magis utuntur aedium
ea ibo opsonatum, eadem referam opsonium:
per hortum utroque commeatus continet.
ite hac secundum vos me. ego hunc lacero diem. —

Gelasimvs
Libros inspexi; tam confido quam potis,
me meum optenturum regem ridiculis meis.
nunc interviso, iamne a portu advenerit,
ut eum ádvenientem meis dictis deleniam.

Epig.
Hic quidém Gelasimus est parasitus, qui venit.

Gel.

Auspicio hodie óptumo exivi foras:
mustela murem ábstulit praeter pedes;
cum strena óbscaevavit; spectatum hoc mihist.
nam ut illa vitam repperit hodie sibi,
item me spero facturum: augurium hac facit.
Epignómus hic quidemst qui ástat. ibo atque adloquar.
o Épignome, ut ego nunc te conspicio libens,
ut prae laetitia lacrimae prosiliunt mihi.
valuistin usque?

Epig.
Sustentatumst sedulo.

Gel.

Propino tibi salutem plenis faucibus.

Epig.
Bene atque amice dicis. di dent quae velis.

Gel.

Cenem illi apud te, quoniam salvos advenis.

Epig.
Locatast opera nunc quidem; tam gratiast.

G.
Promitte.

E.
Certumst.

G.
Sic face inquam.

E.
Certa res.

G.
Lubente me hercle facies.

E.
Idem ego istuc scio.
quando usus veniet, fiet.

Gel.

Nunc ergo usus est.

Epig.
Non edepol possum.

Gel.

Quid gravare? censeas.
nescio quid vero hábeo in mundo.

Epig.
I modo,
alium convivam quaerito tibi in hunc diem.

Gel.

Quin tu promittis?

Epig.
Non graver, si possiem.

Gel.

Vnum quidem hercle certo promitto tibi:
libens accipiam certo, si promiseris.

Ep.
Valeas.

Gel.

Certumnest?

Ep.
Certum. cenabo domi.

Gel.

Quando quidem tu ad me non vis promittere
sed — quoniam nil processit hac, ego ivero
apertiore magis via; ita plane loquar:
vin ad te ad cenam veniam?

Epig.
Si possim, velim;
verum hic apud me cenant alieni novem.

Gel.

Hau postulo equidem med in lecto accumbere:
scis tu me esse unisubselli virum.

Epig.
At ei óratores sunt popli, summi viri;
Ambracia veniunt huc legati publice.

Gel.

Ergo oratores populi, summates viri,
summi accubent, ego infimatis infimus.

Epig.
Haud aequomst te inter oratores accipi.

Gel.

Equidem hercle orator sum, sed procedit parum.

Epig.
Cras de reliquiis nos volo. multum vale. —

Gel.

Perii hercle vero plane, nihil obnoxie.
uno Gelasimo minus est quam dudum fuit.
certumst mustelae posthac numquam credere,
nam incertiorem nullam novi bestiam;
quaen eapse deciens in die mutat locum,
ea ego auspicavi ín re capitali mea?
certumst amicos convocare, ut consulam
qua lege nunc med essurire oporteat. —

ACT IV.

Antipho
Íta me di bene amént measque mihi bene servassint filias,
ut mihi volup est, Pamphilippe, quia vos in patriam domum
rediisse video bene gesta re ambos, te et fratrem tuom.

Pamphilippvs
Satis abs te accipiam, nisi videam mihi te amicum esse, Antipho;
nunc quia té amicum mihi experior esse, credetur tibi.

Ant.
Vocem ego te ad me ad cenam, frater tuos ni dixisset mihi,
te apud se cenaturum esse hodie, quom me ad se ad cenam vocat.
et magis pár fuerat me vobis dare cenam advenientibus,
quam me ad illúm promittere, nisi nollem ei advorsarier.
nunc me gratiam abs te inire verbis nil desidero:
cras apud me éritis et tu et ille cum vostris uxoribus.

Pamph.
At apud mé perendie. nam ille heri me iam vocaverat
in hunc diem. sed satin ego tecum pacificatus sum, Antipho?

Ant.
Quando ita rem gessistis ut vos velle amicosque addecet,
pax commersque est vobis mecum. nam hoc tu facito ut cogites:
ut cuique homini res paratast, périnde amicis utitur:
si res firma, item fírmi amici sunt; sin res laxe labat,
itidem amici conlabascunt: res amicos invenit.

Epignomvs
Iam redeo. nimiast voluptas, ubi diu afueris domo,
domum ubi rédieris, sí tibi nullast aegritudo animo obviam.
nam ita me absente familiarem rem uxor curavit meam,
omnium me éxilem atque inanem fecit aegritudinum.
sed eccum fratrem Pamphilippum, incedit cum socero suo.

P.
Quid agitur, Epignome?

E.
Quid tu? quam dudum in portum venis?

Pamph.
Hau longissume.

Epig.
Postilla iam iste est tranquillus tibi?

A.
Magis quam mare quo ambo estis vecti.

E.
Facis ut alias res soles.
hodiene exoneramus navem, frater?

Pamph.
Clementer volo.
nos potius oneremus nosmet vícissatim voluptátibus.
quam mox coctast cena? inpransus ego sum.

E.
Abi intro ad me et lava.

Pamph.
Deos salutatum atque uxorem módo intro devortor domum;
haec si ita ut volo conficio, continuo ad te transeo.

Epig.
Apud nos eccillam festinat cum sorore uxor tua.

Pamph.
Optumest, iam istoc morai minus erit. iam ego apud te ero.

Ant.

Prius quam abis, praesente ted huic apologum agere unum volo.

Pamph.
Maxume.

Ant.
Fuit olim, quasi ego sum, senex; ei filiae
duae erant, quasi nunc meae sunt; eae erant duobus nuptae fratribus,
quasi nunc meae sunt vobis.

Epig.
Miror quo evasurust apologus.

Ant.
Erant minori illi adulescenti fidicina et tibicina,
peregre advexerat, quasi nunc tu; sed ille erat caeleps senex,
quasi ego nunc sum.

E.
Perge porro. praesens hic quidem est apologus.

Ant.
Deinde senex ille illi dixit, cuius erat tibicina,
quasi ego nunc tibi dico:

Epig.
Ausculto atque animum advorto sedulo.

Ant.
“Ego tibi meam filiam, bene quicum cubitares, dedi:
nunc mihi reddi ego aequom esse abs te quicum cubitem censeo.”

Epig.
Quis istuc dicit? an ille quasi tu?

Ant.
Quasi ego nunc dico tibi.
‘Immo duas dabo,’ inquit ille adulescens “una si parumst;

et si duarum paenitebit," inquit 'addentur duae.'

E.
Quis istuc quaeso? an ille quasi ego?

A.
Is ipse quasi tu. tum senex
ille quasi ego: 'si vis,' inquit "quattuor sane dato,
dúm equidem hercle quod edint addas, meum ne contruncent
cibum."

Epig.
Videlicet parcum illum fuisse senem, qui illi istaec dixerit,
quóm ille, illi qui pollicetur, eum cibum poposcerit.

Ant.
Videlicet non fuisse illum aequom ádulescentem, qui ilico
ubi ille poscit denegavit dare se granum tritici.
hercle qui aequom postulabat ille senex, quando quidem
filiae illae dederat dotem, accipere pro tibicina.

Epig.
Hercle ille quidem certo adulescens docte vorsutus fuit,
qui seni illi concubinam dare dotatam noluit.

Ant.
Senex quidem voluit, si posset, indipisci de cibo;
quia nequit, qua lege licuit velle dixit fieri.
'fiat' ille inquít adulescens. 'facis benigne' inquit senex.
'habeon rem pactam?' inquit. 'faciam ita' inquit 'ut fieri voles.'
sed ego ibo intro et gratulabor vostrum adventum filiis.
poste ibo lautum ín pyelum, ibi fovebo sénectutem meam.
post ubi lavero, otiosus vos opperiar accubans. —

Pamph.
Graphicum mortalem Antiphonem, ut apologum fecit quam fabre.

Epig.

Etiam nunc scelestus se esse ducit pro adulescentulo.
dabitur homini amica, noctu quae in lecto occentet senem;
namque edepol aliud quidem illi quid amica opus sit nescio.

Pamph.
Sed quid agit parasitus noster Gelasimus? etiam valet?

E.
Vidi edepol hominem haud perdudum.

P.
Quid agit?

E.
Quod famelicus.

P.
Quin vocavisti hominem ad cenam?

E.
Ne quid advéniens perderem.
atque eccum tibi lúpum in sermone: praesens esuriens adest.

Pamph.
Ludificemur hominem.

Epig.
Capti consili memorem mones.

Gelasimvs
Sed ita ut occepi narrare vobis: quom hic non adfui,
cúm amicis deliberavi iam et cum cognatis meis.
ita mi auctores fuere, ut egomet me hodie iugularem fame.
sed videone ego Pamphilippum cum fratre Epignomo? atque is est.
adgrediar hominem. o sperate Pamphilippe, o spes mea,
o mea vita, o mea voluptas, salve. salvom gaudeo
peregre te in patriam rediisse.

Pamph.
Salvo salve, Gelasime.

G.
Valuistin bene?

P.
Sustentatumst sedulo.

G.
Edepol gaudeo.
edepol ne ego nunc mihi medimnum mille esse argenti velim.

Epig.
Quid eo tibi opust?

Gel.

Hunc hercle ad cenam ut vocem, te non vocem.

Epig.
Advorsum te fabulare.

Gel.

Illud quidem, ambos ut vocem;
et equidem simitu hau maligne vos invitassem domum
ad me, sed mihi ipsi domi meae nihil est. atque hoc scitis vos.

Epig.
Edepol te vocem lubenter, si superfiat locus.

G.
Quin tum stans obstrusero aliquid strenue.

E.
Immo unum hoc potest.

G.

Quid?

E.
Vbi convivae abierint, tum venias.

G.
Vae aetati tuae.

Epig.
Vasa lautum, non ad cenam dico.

Gel.

Di te perduint.
quid ais, Pamphilippe?

Pamph.
Ad cenam hercle alio promisi foras.

G.
Quid, foras?

P.
Foras hércle vero.

G.
Qui malum tíbi lasso libet
foris cenare?

Pamph.
Vtrum tu censes?

Gel.

Iuben domi cenam coqui
atque ad illúm renuntiari?

Pamph.
Solus cenabo domi?

Gel.

Non enim sólus: me vocato.

Pamph.
At ille ne suscenseat,
mea qui causa sumptum fecit.

Gel.

Facile excusari potest.
mihi modo ausculta, iube cénam domi coqui.

Epig.
Non me quidem
faciet auctore, hodie ut illum decipiat.

Gel.

Non tu hinc abis?
nisi me non perspicere censes quid agas. cave sis tu tibi,
nam illic homó tuam hereditatem inhiát, quasi esuriens lupus.
non tu scis, quam éfflictentur homines noctu hic in via?

Pamph.
Tanto pluris qui defendant ire advorsum iussero.

Epig.
Non it, non it, quia tanto opere suades ne ebitat.

Gel.

Iube
domi mi tibique tuaeque uxori celeriter cenam coqui.
si hercle faxis, non opinor dices deceptum fore.

Pamph.
Per hanc tibi cenam incenato, Gelasime, esse hodie licet.

Gel.

Ibisne ad cenam foras?

Pamph.
Apud frátrem ceno in proxumo.

G.
Certumnest?

P.
Certum.

G.
Edepol te hodie lapide percussum velim.

Pamph.
Non metuo: per hortúm transibo, non prodibo in publicum.

Epig.
Quid ais, Gelasime?

Gel.

Oratores tu accipis, habeas tibi.

Epig.
Tua pol refert.

Gel.

Enim, si quidem meá refert, opera utere.

Epig.
Posse edepol tibi opinor etiam uni locum condi ...
ubi accubes.

Pamph.
Sane faciundum censeo.

Gel.

O lux oppidi.

Epig.
Si arte poteris accubare.

Gel.

Vél inter cuneos ferreos;
tantillum loculi, ubi catellus cubet, id mi satis est loci.

E.
Exorabo aliquo modo. veni.

G.
Hucine?

E.
Immo in carcerem;
nam hic quidem genium meliorem tuom non facies. eamus, tu.

Pamph.
Deos salutabo modo, poste ad te continuo transeo. —

G.
Quid igitur?

E.
Dixi equidem, in carcerem ires.

G.
Quin si iusseris,
eo quoque ibo.

E.
Di immortales, hic quidem pól summam in crucem
cena aut prandio perduci potest.

Gel.

Ita ingenium meumst:
quicumvis depugno multo facilius quam cum fame.

Epig.
Dum parasitus mi atque fratri fuisti, rem confregimus.

Gel.

Non nego ista ápud te.

Epig.
Satis spectatast mihi iam tua felicitas;
nunc ego nolo ex Gelasimo mihi fieri te Catagelasimum. —

Gel.

Iamne abiisti? Gelasime, vide quíd es capturus consili.
egone? tune. mihine? tibine. viden ut annonast gravis?
viden, benignitates hominum ut periere et prothymiae?
viden ridiculos nihili fieri, atque ipsos parasitarier?
numquam edepol me vivom quisquam in crastinum inspiciet diem;
nam mihi iam intus potione iuncea onerabo gulam,
neque ego hoc committam, ut me esse homines mortuom dicant
fame. —

ACT V.

Stichvs
More hoc fit, atque stulte mea sententia:
si quem hominem exspectant, eum solent provisere;
qui hercle illa causa ócius nihilo venit.
idem ego nunc facio, qui proviso Sagarinum,
qui nihilo citius veniet tamen hac gratia.
iam hercle ego decumbam solus, si ille huc non venit.
cadum modo hinc a me huc cum vino transferam,
postidea accumbam. quasi nix tabescit dies. —

Sangarinvs
Salvete, Athenae, quae nutrices Graeciae,
sperata erilis patria, te video libens.
sed amica mea et conserva quid agat Stephanium
curaest, ut valeat. nam Sticho mandaveram,
salutem ut nuntiaret atque ei ut diceret
me hodie venturum, ut cenam coqueret temperi.
sed Stichus est hic quidem.

Stichvs
Fecisti, ere, facetias,
quom hoc donavisti dono tuom servom Stichum.
pro di immortales, quot ego voluptates fero,
quot risiones, quot iocos, quot savia,
saltationes, blanditias, prothymias.

Sang.
Stiche.

Stich.
Hem.

Sang.
Quíd fit?

Stich.
Euge, Sangarine lepidissume.
fero convivam Dionysum mihique et tibi.
namque edepol cena cocta est, locus liber datust
mihi et tibi apud vos (nam apud nos est convivium,
ibi voster cenat cum uxore adeo et Antipho,
ibidem erus est noster), hoc mihi dono datumst.

Sang.
Quis somniavit aurum?

Stich.
Quid id ad te attinet?
proin tu lavare propera.

Sang.
Lautus sum.

Stich.
Optime,
sequere ergo hác me íntro.

Sang.
Ego vero sequor.

Stich.
volo eluamus hodie, peregrina omnia
relinque, Athenas nunc colamus. sequere me. —

Sang.
Sequor, et domum redeunti principium placet.
bona scaeva strenaque obviam occessit mihi. —

Stephanivm
Mirúm videri némini vestrúm volo, spectatóres,
quid ego hinc, quae illic habito, exeam: faciam vos certiores.
domo dúdum huc arcessita sum, nam quoniam nuntiatum est
istarum venturos viros, ibi festinamus omnes;

lectis sternendis studuimus munditiisque apparandis.
intér illud tamen negotium meis curavi amicis,
Sticho et conservo Sagarino meo, cena cocta ut esset.
Stichus obsonatust, ceterum ego operam do: is adlegavit.
nunc ibo hinc et amicos meos curabo hic advenientes. —

Sangarinvs
Ágite ite foras: férte pompam. cádo te praefició, Stiche.
omnibus módis temptare certumst nostrum hodie convivium.
ita me di ament, lepide accipimur quom hoc recipimur in loco.
quisquis praetéreat, comissatum volo vocari.

Stichvs
Convenit,
dum quidem hercle quisque veniat, veniat cum vino suo.
nam hinc quidem hodie polluctura praeter nos dabitur nemini. †
nosmet inter nos ministrémus monotropi.

Sang.
Hoc conviviumst
pro opibus nostris satis commodule nucibus, fabulis, ficulis,
oleae † interiplio, lupillo, comminuto crustulo.

Stich.
Sat est: servo homini módeste melius facere sumptum quam ampliter.
suom quemque decet: quibus divitiae domi sunt, scaphiis cantharis batiocis bibunt, át nos nostro Samiolo poterio:
tamen bibimús nos, tamen efficimus pro opibus nostra moenia.

Sang.
Age dice uter utrubi áccumbamus.

Stich.
Abi tu sane superior.
atque adeo, ut tu scire possis, pacto ego hoc técum divido:
vide, utram tibi libet etiam nunc capere, cape provinciam.

Sang.
Quid istuc est provinciai?

Stich.
Vtrum Fontine an Libero
imperium te inhibere mavis?

Sang.
Nimio liquido Libero.
sed amica mea et tua dum cenat dumque se exórnat, nos volo
tamen ludere inter nós. strategum te facio huic convivio.

Stich.
Nimium lepide in mentem venit: potius quam in subsellio
cynice hic accipimur quam in lectis.

Sang.
Immo enim nímio hic dulcius.
sed interim, strategе noster, cur hic cessat cantharus?
vide, quot cyathos bibimus.

Stich.
Tot quot digiti tibi sunt in manu.
cantio Graecast: ἢ πέντ᾽ ἢ τρία πῖν᾽ ἢ μὴ τέτταρα.

Sang.
Tibi propino. decumam a fonte tibi tute inde, si sapis.
bene vos, bene nos, bene te, bene me, bene nostram etiam
Stephanium.

Stich.
Bibe si bibis.

Sang.
Non mora erit apud me.

Stich.
Edepol convivi sat est,

modo nostra huc amica accedat: id abest, aliud nil abest.

Stich.
Lepide hoc actum est. tibi propino cantharum. vinum tu habes.

Sa.
Nimis vellem aliquid pulpamenti.

St.
Si horum, quae adsunt, paenitet,
nihil est. tene aquam.

Sang.
Melius dicis; nil moror cuppedia.
bibe, tibicen. age si quid agis, bíbendum hercle hoc est, ne nega.
quid hic fastidis quod faciundum vides esse tibi? quin bibis?
age si quid agis accipe inquam. non hoc tuo fit sumptu: inpendet publicum.
haud tuom istúc est te vereri. éripe ex ore tibias.

Stich.
Vbi illic biberit, vel servato meum modum vel tu dabo. †
nolo ego nos † prosumo bibere. nulli rei erimus postea;
namque edepol quam vis desubito vel cadus verti potest.

Sang.
Quid igitur? quamquam gravatus fuisti, non nocuit tamen.
age, tibicen, quando bíbisti, refer ad labeas tibias,
suffla celeriter tibi buccas quasi proserpens bestia,
agedum. Stiche, uter démutassit, poculo multabitur.

Stich.
Bonum ius dicis. impetrare oportet qui aequom postulat.

Sang.
Age ergo observa. si pecassis, multam hic retinebo ilico.

St.

Optimum atque aequissimum oras. em tibi hoc primum omnium:
haec facetiast, amare inter se rivalis duos,
uno cantharo potare, únum scortum ducere.
hoc memorabilest: ego tu sum, tu es ego, unianimi sumus,
unam amicam amamus ambo, mecum ubi est, tecum est tamen;
tecum ubi autem est, mecum ibi autemst: neuter neutri ínvidet.

Sang.
Ohe, iam satis, nolo obtaedescat; alium ludum nunc volo.

Stich.
Vin amicam huc evocemus? ea saltabit.

Sang.
Censeo.

Stich.
Mea suavis, amabilis, amoena Stephanium, ad amores tuos
foras egredere, satis mihi pulchra és.

Sang.
At enim pulcherrima.

Stich.
Fac nos hilaros hilariores opera atque adventu tuo.

Sang.
Peregre advenientes te expetimus, Stephaniscidium, mel meum,
sí amabilitas tibi nostrá placet, si tibi ambo áccepti sumus.

Stephanivm
Mórem vobis geram, meaé deliciae. nam íta me Venus amoéna amet,
ut ego huc iam dudum simitu exissem vobiscum foras,
nisi me vobis exornarem. nam ita est ingenium muliebre:
bene cum lauta est, tersa ornata ficta est, infecta est tamen;
nimioque sibi mulier meretrix repperit odium ocius
sua inmunditia, quam in perpetuom ut placeat munditia sua.

Stich.
Nimium lepide fabulata est.

Sang.
Veneris mera est oratio,

St.
Sangarine.

Sa.
Quid est?

St.
Totus doleo.

Sa.
Totus? tanto miserior.

Steph.
Vtrubi accumbo?

Sang.
Vtrubí tu vis?

Steph.
Cum ambobus volo, nam ambos amo.

Stich.
Vapulat peculium, actum est.

Sang.
Fugit hoc libertas caput.

Steph.
Date mihi lócum, ubi accumbam, amabo, siquidem placeo.

Stich.
Tun mihi?

Steph.
Cupio cúm utroque.

Stich.
Ei mihi, bene ego dispereo. quid ais?

Sang.
Quid est?

Stich.
Ita me di ament, numquam enim fíet hodie, haec quin saltet tamen.
age, mulsa mea suavitudo, salta: saltabo ego simul.

Sang.
Numquam edepol med istoc vinces, quin ego ibidem pruriam.

Steph.
Siquidem mihi saltandum est, tum vos date bibat tibicini.

Stich.
Et quidem nóbis.

Sang.
Tene, tibicen, primum; postidea loci
si hoc eduxeris, proinde ut consuetu's antehac, celeriter
lepidam et suavem cantionem aliquam occupito cinaedicam,
ubi perpruriscamus usque ex unguiculis. inde huc aquam.
tene tu hóc, educe. dudum placuit potio:
nunc minus gravate iam accipit. tene tu. interim,
meus oculus, da mihi savium, dum illic bibit.

Stich.
Prostibilest tandem? stantem stanti savium
dare amicum amicae? euge euge, sic furi datur.

Sang.
Age, iam infla buccas, nunciam aliquid suaviter.
redde cántionem veteri pro vino novam.

qui Iónicus aut cinaédicust, qui hoc tále facere póssiet?

Stich.
Si istóc me vorsu víceris, alió me provocáto:

Sa.
Fac tu hóc modo.

St.
At tu hoc módo.

Sa.
Babae.

St.
Tataé.

Sang.
Papae.

Stich.
Pax.

Sang.
Nunc páriter ambo. omnís voco cinaédos contra.
satis ésse nobis nón magis potis quám fungo imber.

Stich.
Intro hínc abeamus nunciam: saltátum satis pro vinost.
vos, spectatores, plaudite atque ite ad vos comissatum.

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PROLOGVS

Lvxvria
Sequere hac me, gnata, ut munus fungaris tuom.

Inopia
Sequor, sed finem fore quem dicam nescio.

Lvx.

Adest. em illaé sunt aedes, i intro nunciam. —
nunc, ne quis erret vostrum, paucis in viam
deducam, si quidem operam dare promittitis.
nunc igitur primum quaé ego sim et quae illaec siet,
huc quae abiit intro, dicam, si animum advortitis.
primum mihi Plautus nomen Luxuriae indidit;
tum hánc mihi gnatam esse voluit Inopiam.
sed ea huc quid introierit impulsu meo
accipite et date vocivas aures dum eloquor.
adulescens quidam est, quí in hisce habitat aedibus;
is rem paternam me adiutrice perdidit.
quoniam ei, qui me aleret, nil video esse relicui,
dedi ei meam gnatam, quicum aétatem exigat.
sed de argumento ne exspectetis fabulae:
senes qui huc venient, ei rem vobis aperient.
huic Graece nomen est Thensauro fabulae:
Philemo scripsit, Plautus vertit barbare,
nomen Trinummo fecit, nunc hoc vos rogat
ut liceat possidere hanc nomen fabulam.
tantum est. valete, adeste cum silentio. —

ACT I.

Megaronides
Amicum castigare ob meritam noxiam
immoene est facinus, verum in aetate utile
et conducibile. nám ego amicum hodie meum
concastigabo pro commerita noxia,
invitus, ni id me invitet ut faciam fides.
nam hic nimium morbus mores invasit bonos;
ita plerique omnes iam sunt intermortui.
sed dum illi aegrotant, interim mores mali
quasi herba inrigua succrevere uberrime:
eorúm licet iam metere messem maxumam,
neque quicquam hic nunc est vile nisi mores mali.
nimioque hic pluris pauciorum gratiam
faciunt pars hominum quam id quod prosint pluribus.
ita vincunt illud conducibile gratiae,
quae in rebus multis opstant odiosaeque sunt
remoramque faciunt rei privatae et publicae.

Callicles
Larem corona nostrum decorari volo.
uxor, venerare ut nobis haec habitatio
bona fausta felix fortunataque evenat —
teque ut quam primum possim videam emortuam.

Meg.
Hic ille ést, senecta aetate qui factust puer,
qui admisit in se culpam castigabilem.
adgrediar hominem.

Cal.

Quoia hic vox prope me sonat?

Meg.
Tui benevolentis, sí ita es ut ego te volo,

sin aliter es, inimici atque irati tibi.

Cal.

O amice, salve, átque aequalis. ut vales,
Megaronides?

Meg.
Et tu edepol salve, Callicles.

Cal.

Valen? valuistin?

Meg.
Valeo, et valui rectius.

Cal.

Quid tua agit uxor? ut valet?

Meg.
Plus quam ego volo.

Cal.

Bene hercle est illam tibi valere et vivere.

Meg.
Credo hercle te gaudere, si quid mihi mali est.

Cal.

Omnibus amicis quod mihi est cupio esse idem.

Meg.
Eho tu, tua uxor quid agit?

Cal.

Immortalis est,
vivit victuraque est.

Meg.
Bene hercle nuntias,
deosque óro ut vitae tuae superstes suppetat.

Cal.

Dum quidem hercle tecum nupta sit, sane velim.

Meg.
Vin commutemus, tuam ego ducam et tu meam?
faxo haud tantillum dederis verborum mihi.

Cal.

Namque enim tu, credo, me imprudentem obrepseris.

Meg.
Ne tu hercle faxo haud nescias quam rem egeris.

Cal.

Habeas ut nanctu's: nota mala res optumast.
nam ego nunc si ignotam capiam, quid agam nesciam.

Meg.
Edepol proinde ut diu vivitur, bene vivitur.
sed hoc ánimum advorte atque aufer ridicularia;
nam ego dedita opera huc ad te advenio.

Cal.

Quid venis?

Meg.
Malis te ut verbis multis multum obiurigem.

Cal.

Men?

Meg.
Numquis est hic alius praeter me atque te?

Cal.

Nemost.

Meg.
Quid tu igitur rogitas, tene obiurigem?
nisi tu me mihimet censes dicturum male.
nam si in te aegrotant artes antiquae tuae,
sin immutare vis ingenium moribus
aut si demutant mores ingenium tuom
neque eos antiquos servas, ast captas novos
omnibus amicis morbum tu incuties gravem,
ut te videre audireque aegroti sient.

Cal.

Qui in mentem venit tibi istaec dicta dicere?

Meg.
Quia omnís bonos bonasque adcurare addecet,
suspicionem et culpam ut ab se segregent.

Cal.

Non potest utrumque fieri.

Meg.
Quapropter?

Cal.

Rogas?

ne admittam culpam, ego meo sum promus pectori:
suspicio est in pectore alieno sita.
nam nunc ego si te surrupuisse suspicer
Iovi coronam de capite ex Capitolio,
qui in columine astat summo: si id non feceris
atque id tamen mihi lubeat suspicarier,
qui tu id prohibere me potes ne suspicer?
sed istúc negoti cupio scire quid siet.

Meg.
Haben tu amicum aut familiarem quempiam,
quoi pectus sapiat?

Cal.

Edepol haud dicam dolo:
sunt quos scio esse amicos, sunt quos suspicor,
sunt quorum ingenia atque animos nequeo noscere,
ad amici partem an ad inimici pervenant;
sed tu ex amicis mi es certis certissimus.
si quid scis me fecisse inscite aut improbe,
†si id me non accusas, tute ipse obiurgandus es.

Meg.
Scio;
et, si alia huc causa ad te adveni, aequom postulas.

Cal.

Expecto si quid dicas.

Meg.
Primumdum omnium,
male dictitatur tibi volgo in sermonibus:
turpilucricupidum te vocant cives tui;
tum autem sunt alii, qui te volturium vocant:
hostisne an civis comedis, parvi pendere.
haec cum audio in te dici, discrucior miser.

Cal.

Est atque non est mi in manu, Megaronides:
quin dicant, non est; merito ut ne dicant, id est.

Meg.
Fuitne híc tibi amicus Charmides?

Cal.

Est et fuit.
id ita esse ut credas, rem tibi auctorem dabo.
nam postquam hic eius rem confregit filius
videtque ípse ad paupertatem protractum esse se
suamque filiam esse adultam virginem,
simul eius matrem suamque uxorem mortuam,
quoniam hinc iturust ipsus in Seleuciam,
mihi conmendavit virginem gnatam suam
et rem suam omnem et illúm corruptum filium.
haec, si mihi inimicus esset, credo haud crederet.

Meg.
Quid tu, adulescentem, quem esse corruptum vides,
qui tuae mandatus est fide et fiduciae,
quin eum restituis, quin ad frugem conrigis?
ei rei óperam dare te fuerat aliquanto aequius,
si qui probiorem facere posses, non uti
in eandem tute accederes infamiam
malumque ut eius cum tuo mísceres malo.

C.
Quid feci?

M.
Quod homo nequam.

C.
Non istuc meumst.

Meg.
Emistin de adulescente has aedes (quid taces?)
ubi nunc tute habitas?

Cal.

Emi atque argentum dedi,
minas quadraginta, adulescenti ipsi in manum.

Meg.
Dedistín argentum?

Cal.

Factum, neque facti piget.

Meg.
Edepol fide adulescentem mandatum malae.
dedistíne hoc facto ei gladium, qui se occideret?
quid secus est aut quid interest dare te in manus
argentum amanti homini adulescenti, animi impoti,
qui exaedificaret suam incohatam ignaviam?

Cal.

Non ego illi argentum redderem?

Meg.
Non redderes,
neque de illo quicquam neque emeres neque venderes,
nec qui deterior esset faceres copiam.
inconciliastin eum qui mandatust tibi,
ille quí mandavit, eum exturbasti ex aedibus?
edepol mandatum pulchre et curatum probe;
crede huic tutelam: suam melius rem gesserit.

Cal.

Subigis maledictis me tuis, Megaronides,
novo modo adeo, ut quod meae concreditumst
taciturnitati clam, fide et fiduciae,
ne enuntiarem quoiquam neu facerem palam,
ut mihi necesse sit iam id tibi concredere.

Meg.
Mihi quod credideris sumes ubi posiveris.

Cal.

Circumspicedum te, ne quis adsit arbiter
nobis, et quaeso identidem circumspice.

Meg.
Ausculto si quid dicas.

Cal.

Si taceas, loquar.
quoniam hinc est profecturus peregre Charmides,
thensaurum demonstravit mihi in hisce aedibus,
hic in conclavi quodam — sed circumspice.

Meg.
Nemost.

Cal.

Nummorum Philippeum ad tria milia.
id solus solum per amicitiam et per fidem
flens me obsecravit suo ne gnato crederem
neu quoiquam unde ad eum id posset permanascere.
nunc si ille huc salvos revenit, reddam suom sibi;
si quid eo fuerit, certe illius filiae,
quae mihi mandatast, habeo dotem únde dem,
ut eam in se dignam condicionem conlocem.

Meg.
Pro di immortales, verbis paucis quam cito
alium fecisti me, alius ad te veneram.
sed ut occepisti, perge porro proloqui.

Cal.

Quid tibi ego dicam, qui illius sapientiam
et meam fidelitatem et celata omnia
paene ille ignavos funditus pessum dedit.

Meg.
Quidum?

Cal.

Quia, ruri dum sum ego unos sex dies,
me apsente atque insciente, inconsultu meo,
aedis venalis hasce inscripsit litteris.

Meg.
Adesurivit magis et ínhiavit acrius
lupus, observavit dum dormitarent canes:
gregem universum voluit totum avortere.

Cal.

Fecisset edepol, ni haec praesensisset canes.
sed nunc rogare ego vicissim te volo:
quid fuit officium meum me facere? face sciam;
utrum indicare me ei thensaurum aequom fuit,
adversum quam eius me opsecravisset pater,
an ego alium dominum paterer fieri hisce aedibus?
qui emisset, eius essetne ea pecunia?
emi egomet potius aedis, argentum dedi
thensauri causa, ut salvom amico traderem.
neque adeo hasce emi mihi nec usurae meae:
illi redemi rusum, a me argentum dedi.

haec sunt: si recte seu pervorse facta sunt,
ego me fecisse confiteor, Megaronides.
em mea malefacta, em meam avăritiam tibi;
hascine propter res maledicas famas ferunt.

Meg.
παῦσαι, vicisti castigatorem tuom:
occlusti linguam, nihil est quod respondeam.

Cal.

Nunc ego te quaeso ut me opera et consilio iuves
communicesque hanc mecum meam provinciam.

Meg.
Polliceor operam.

Cal.

Ergo ubi eris paulo post?

Meg.
Domi.

Cal.

Numquid vis?

Meg.
Cures tuam fidem.

Cal.

Fíet sedulo.

Me.
Sed quid ais?

Ca.

Quid vis?

Me.
Vbi nunc adulescens habet?

Cal.

Posticulum hoc recepit, quom aedis vendidit.

Meg.
Istuc volebam scire. i sane nunciam.
sed quid ais? quid nunc virgo? nempe apud te ést?

Cal.

Itast,
iuxtaque eam cúro cum mea.

Meg.
Recte facis.

Cal.

Numquid, prius quam abeo, me rogaturu's? —

Meg.
Vale.

nihil est profecto stultius neque stolidius
neque mendaciloquius neque argutum magis,
neque confidentiloquius neque peiurius,
quam urbani assidui cives, quos scurras vocant.
atque egomet me adeo cum illis una ibidem traho,
qui illorum verbis falsis acceptor fui,
qui omnia se simulant scire neque quicquam sciunt.
quod quísque in animo habet aut habiturust sciunt,
sciunt íd quod in aurem rex reginae dixerit,
sciunt quod Iuno fabulatast cum Iove;

quae neque futura neque sunt, tamen illi sciunt.
falson an vero laudent, culpent quem velint,
non flocci faciunt, dum illud quod lubeat sciant.
omnes mortales hunc aiebant Calliclem
indignum civitate hac esse et vivere,
bonis qui hunc adulescentem evortisset suis.
ego de eórum verbis famigeratorum insciens
prosilui amicum castigatum innoxium.
quod si exquiratur usque ab stirpe auctoritas,
unde quídquid auditum dicant, nisi id appareat,
famigeratori res sit cum damno et malo,
hoc ita si fiat, publico fiat bono,
pauci sint faxim qui sciant quod nesciunt,
occlusioremque habeant stultiloquentiam. —

ACT II.

Lysiteles
Multás res simítu in meó corde vórso,
multum ín cogitándo dolórem indipíscor:
egomét me coquo ét macero ét defetígo,
magíster mihi éxercitór animus núnc est.
sed hóc non liquét neque satís cogitátumst,
utrám potius hárum mihi ártem expetéssam,
utram aétati agúndae arbitrér firmiórem:
amórin med án rei opsequí potius pár sit,
utra ín parte plús sit volúptatis vítae
ad aetatem agundam.
de hac ré mihi satis haú liquet; nisi hóc sic faciam, opínor,
ut utrámque rem simul éxputem, iudéx sim reusque ad eám rem.
ita fáciam, ita placet; omniúm primum
Amóris artis eloquar quem ad modum expediant.
numquam Ámor quemquam nisi cúpidum hominem
postulát se in plagas conícere:
eos cúpit, eos consectátur;
súbdole blanditur ab re cónsulit,
blandíloquentulus, harpagó, mendax,
cuppés, avarus, élegans, despoliator,
latebrícolarum hominum córruptor,
blandus inops célatum indagátor.
nam quí amat quod amat quom éxtemplo
saviís sagittatis pérculsust,
ílico rés foras lábitur, líquitur.
‘dá mihi hoc, mél meum, sí me amas, si aúdes’.
ibi ille cuculus: “ocelle mi, fiat:
ét istuc et si ámplius vís dari, dábitur.”
ibi ílla pendentém ferit: iam amplius orat;
nón satis id ést mali, ni ámplius étiam,
quód ecbibit, quód comest, quód facit súmpti.
nóx datur: dúcitur fámilia tóta,
véstiplica, unctor, auri custos, flabelliferae, sandaligerulae,

cantrices, cistellatrices, nuntii, renuntii,
raptóres panis et peni;
fit ípse, dum illis comis est, inóps amator.
haec égo quom ago cúm meo animo ét recolo,
ubi quí eget, quam preti sít parvi:
apagé te, Amor, nón places níl te utor;
quamquam íllud est dúlce, esse ét bibere,
Amór amara dát tamen, satis quod aegre sit:
fugit fórum, fugitat suos cógnatos,
fugat ípsus se ab suo cóntutu,
neque eúm sibi amicum vólunt dici.
millé modis, Amor, ignórandu's,
procul abhibendu's atque abstandu's,
nam qui ín amorem praecípitavit,
peiús perit quasi saxó saliat:
apagé te, Amor, tuas res tíbi habeto,
Amor, míhi amicus ne fúas umquam;
sunt támen quos miseros máleque habeas,
quos tíbi obnoxios fecísti.
certúmst ad frugem adplicáre animum,
quamquam íbi labos grandis cápitur.
boni síbi haec expetúnt, rem, fídem, honorem,
gloriam ét gratiam: hoc probis prétiumst.
eo míhi magis lubet cum próbis potius
quam cum ímprobis vivere vánidicis.

Philto
Quo illíc homo foras se pénetravit ex
aedíbus?

Lys.
Pater, adsum, imperá quidvis,
neque tíbi ero in mora neque látebrose
me abs tuó conspectu occúltabo.

Ph.
Féceris pár tuis ceteris fáctis,

patrém tuom si pércoles per pietatem.
nólo ego cum ímprobis té viris, gnáte mi,
neque ín via, neque ín foro necúllum sermonem éxsequi
nóvi ego hoc saeculum móribus quíbus siet:
malús bonum malum ésse volt, ut sít sui similis;
turbánt, miscent morés mali: rapáx avarus ínvidus
sacrúm profanum, públicum privátum habent, hiúlca gens.
haec égo doleo, haec súnt quae me excruciánt, haec dies
noctésque tibi canto út caveas.
quod mánu non queunt tangére tantum fas hábent quo manus abstíneant,
cetéra: rape trahe, fuge láte — lacrumas
haec míhi quom video elíciunt,
quia ego ád hoc genus hominum dúravi.
quin príus me ad plures pénetravi?
nam hi móres maiorúm laudant, eosdém lutitant quos cónlaudant.
hisce égo de artibus gratiám facio, ne cólas neve imbuas íngenium.
meo módo et moribus vivito ántiquis,
quae ego tíbi praecipio, ea fácito.
nihil égo istos moror faeceós mores, turbidós, quibus boni dedécorant se.
haec tíbi si mea imperiá capesses, multá bona in pectore cónsident.

Lys.
Sémper ego usque ad hanc aetatem ab ineunte adulescentia
tuis servivi servitutem imperiis et praeceptis, pater.
pro ingenio ego me liberum esse ratus sum, pro imperio tuo
meum animum tibi servitutem servire aequom censui.

Phil.
Quí homo cum animo inde ab ineunte aetate depugnat suo,
utrum itane esse mavelit ut eum animus aequom censeat,
an ita potius ut parentes eum esse et cognati velint:
si animus hominem pepulit, actumst: animo servit, non sibi;
si ipse animum pepulit, dum vivit victor victorum cluet.
tu si animum vicisti potius quam animus te, est quod gaudeas.

nimio satiust, ut opust té ita ésse, quam ut animo lubet:
qui animum vincunt, quam quos animus, semper probiores cluent.

Lys.
Istaec ego mi semper habui aetati integumentum meae;
ne penetrarem me usquam ubi esset damni conciliabulum
neu noctu irem obambulatum neu suom adimerem alteri
neu tibi aegritudinem, pater, párerem, parsi sedulo:
sarta tecta tua praecepta usque habui mea modestia.

Phil.
Quid exprobras? bene quod fecisti tibi fecisti, non mihi;
mihi quidem aetas actast ferme: tua istuc refert maxime.
is probus est quem paenitet quam probus sit et frugi bonae;
qui ipsus sibi satis placet, nec probus est nec frugi bonae:
qui ipsus se contemnit, in eost indoles industriae.
bene facta bene factis aliis pertegito, ne perpluant.

Lys.
Ob eam rem haec, pater, autumavi, quia res quaedamst quam volo
ego me abs te exorare.

Phil.
Quid id est? dare iam veniam gestio.

Lys.
Adulescenti hinc genere summo, amico atque aequali meo,
minus qui caute et cogitate suam rem tractavit, pater,
bene volo ego illi facere, si tu non nevis.

Phil.
Nempe dé tuo?

Lys.
De meo: nam quod tuomst meumst, ómne meumst autem tuom.

Phil.
Quid is? egetne?

Lys.
Eget.

Phil.
Habuitne rem?

Lys.
Habuit.

Phil.
Quí eam perdidit?
publicisne adfinis fuit an maritumis negotiis?
mercaturan, an venales habuit ubi rem perdidit?

L.
Nihil istorum.

P.
Quid igitur?

L.
Per comitatem edepol, pater;
praeterea aliquantum animi causa in deliciis disperdidit.

Phil.
Edepol hominem praemandatum ferme familiariter,
qui quidem núsquam per virtutem rem confregit, atque eget;
nil moror eum tíbi esse amicum cum eius modi virtutibus.

Lys.
Quia sine omni malitiast, tolerare eius égestatem volo.

Phil.
De mendico male meretur qui ei dat quod edit aut bibat;
nam et illud quod dat perdit ét illi prodit vitam ad miseriam.
non eo haec díco, quin quae tu vis ego velim et faciam lubens:
sed ego hoc verbum quom illi quoidam dico, praemonstro tibi,
ut ita te aliorum miserescat, ne tis alios misereat.

Lys.
Deserere illum et deiuvare in rebus advorsis pudet.

Phil.
Pol pudere quam pigere praestat, totidem litteris.

Lys.
Edepol, deum virtute dicam, pater, et maiorum et tua
multa bóna bene parta habemus, bene si amico feceris
ne pigeat fecisse, ut potius pudeat si non feceris.

Phil.
De magnis divitiis si quid demas, plus fit an minus?

Lys.
Minus, pater; sed civi immuni scin quid cantari solet?
“quod habes né habeas et illúc quod non habes habeas, malum,
quandoquidem nec tibi bene esse pote pati neque alteri.”

Phil.
Scio equidem istuc ita solere fieri; verum, gnate mi,
is est immunis, cui nihil est qui munus fungatur suom.

Lys.
Deum virtute habemus et qui nosmet utamur, pater,
et aliis qui comitati simus benevolentibus.

Phil.
Non edepol tibi pernegare possum quicquam quod velis.
cuí egestatem tolerari vis? eloquere audacter patri.

Lys.
Lesbonico huic adulescenti, Charmidai filio,
qui illic habitat.

Phil.
Quin comedit quod fuit, quod non fuit?

Lys.
Ne opprobra, pater; múlta eveniunt homini quae volt, quae nevolt.

Phil.
Mentire edepol, gnate, atque id nunc facis haud consuetudine.
nam sapiens quidem pol ipsus fingit fortunam sibi:
eo non multa quae nevolt eveniunt, nisi fictor malust.

Lys.
Multa illi opera opust ficturae, qui se fictorem probum
vitae agundae esse expetit: sed hic admodum adulescentulust.

Phil.
Non aetate, verum ingenio apiscitur sapientia;
sapienti aetas condimentum, sapiens aetati cibust.
agedum eloquere, quid dare illi nunc vis?

Lys.
Nil quicquam, pater;
tu modo ne me prohibeas accipere, si quid det mihi.

Phil.
An eo egestatem ei tolerabis, si quid ab illo acceperis?

L.
Eo, pater.

P.
Pol ego istam volo me rationem edoceas.

L.
Licet.
scin tu illum quo genere natus sit?

Phil.
Scio, adprime probo.

Lys.

Soror illi est adulta virgo grandis: eam cupio, pater,
ducere uxorem sine dote.

Phil.
Sine dote uxorem?

Lys.
Ita;
tua re salva hoc pacto ab illo summam inibis gratiam,
neque commodius ullo pacto ei poteris auxiliarier.

Phil.
Egone indotatam te uxorem ut patiar?

Lys.
Patiundumst, pater;
et eo pacto addideris nostrae lepidam famam familiae.

Phil.
Multa ego possum docta dicta et quamvis facunde loqui,
historiam veterem atque antiquam haec mea senectus sustinet;
verum ego quando te et amicitiam et gratiam in nostram domum
video adlicere, etsi adversatus tibi fui, istac iudico:
tibi permitto; posce, duce.

Lys.
Di te servassint mihi.
sed adde ad istam gratiam unum.

P.
Quid id est autem unum?

L.
Eloquar.
tute ad eum adeas, tute concilies, tute poscas.

Phil.
Eccere.

Lys.
Nimio citius transiges: firmum omne erit quod tu egeris.
gravius tuom erit unum verbum ad eam rem quam centum mea.

Phil.
Ecce autem in benignitate hoc repperi, negotium.
dabitur opera.

Lys.
Lepidus vivis. haec sunt aedes, hic habet;
Lesbonico est nomen. age, rem cura. ego te opperiar domi. —

Phil.
Non optuma haec sunt, neque ut ego aequom censeo;
verum meliora sunt quam quae deterruma.
sed hoc me únum consolatur atque animum meum,
quia qui nihil aliud nisi quod sibi soli placet
consulit advorsum filium, nugas agit:
miser ex animo fit, factius nihilo facit.
suae senectúti is acriorem hiemem parat,
quom illam importunam tempestatem conciet.
sed aperiuntur aedes quo ibam: commodum
ipse exit Lesbonicus cum servo foras.

Lesbonicvs
Minus quíndecim dies sunt, quom pro hisce aedibus
minas quadraginta accepisti a Callicle.
estne hoc quod dico, Stasime?

Stasimvs
Quom considero,
meminisse videor fieri.

Lesb.
Quid factumst eo?

Stas.
Comessum, expotum; exussum: elotum in balineis,

piscator, pistor apstulit, lanii, coqui,
holitores, myropolae, aucupes: confit cito;
non hercle minus divorse distrahitur cito,
quam si tu obicias formicis papaverem.

Lesb.
Minus hercle in istis rebus sumptumst sex minis.

Stas.
Quid quod dedisti scortis?

Lesb.
Ibidem una traho.

Stas.
Quid quod égo defrudavi?

Lesb.
Em, istaec ratio maxumast.

Stas.
Non tibi illud apparere, si sumas, potest;
nisi tu immortale rere esse argentum tibi.

Phil.
Sero atque stulte, prius quod cautum oportuit,
postquam comedit rem, post rationem putat.

Lesb.
Nequaquam argenti ratio comparet tamen.

Stas.
Ratio quidem hercle apparet: argentum οἴχεται.
minas quadraginta accepisti a Callicle,
et ille aédis mancipio abs te accepit?

Lesb.
Admodum.

Phil.
Pol opino adfinis noster aedis vendidit;
pater quom peregre veniet, in portast locus,
nisi forte in ventrem filio conrepserit.

Stas.
Trapezítae mille drachumarúm Olympico,
quas de ratione dehibuisti, redditae?

Lesb.
Nempe quás spopondi.

Stas.
Immó ‘quas dependi’ inquito
†qua sponsione pronuper tu exactus es
pro illo adulescente, quem tu esse aibas divitem.

L.
Factum.

S.
Vt quidem illud perierit.

L.
Factum id quoque est.
nam nunc eum vidi miserum et me eius miseritumst.

Stas.
Miseret te aliorum, tui nec miseret nec pudet.

Phil.
Tempust adeundi.

Lesb.
Éstne hic Philto qui advenit?
is herclest ipsus.

Stas.

Edepol né ego istum velim
meum fíeri servom cum suo peculio.

Phil.
Erum atque servom plurumum Philto iubet
salvere, Lesbonicum et Stasimum.

Lesb.
Di duint
tibi, Philto, quaequomque optes. quid agit filius?

Phil.
Bene volt tibi.

Lesb.
Edepol mutuom mecum facit.

Stas.
Nequam illud verbumst ‘bene volt’, nisi qui bene facit.
ego quoque volo esse liber: nequiquam volo;
hic postulet frugi esse: nugas postulet.

Phil.
Meus gnátus me ad te misit, inter te atque nos
adfinitatem ut conciliarem et gratiam.
tuam vólt sororem ducere uxorem; et mihi
sententia eademst et volo.

Lesb.
Hau nosco tuom:
bonis tuis rebus meas res inrides malas.

Phil.
Homo ego sum, homo tu es: ita me amabit Iuppiter,
neque te derisum advenio neque dignum puto.
verum hoc quod dixi: meus me oravit filius,
ut tuam sororem poscerem uxorem sibi.

Lesb.
Mearúm me rerum novisse aequomst ordinem.
cum vostra nostra non est aequa factio.
adfinitatem vobis aliam quaerite.

Stas.
Satin tu es sanus mentis aut animi tui,
qui condicionem hanc repudies? nam illum tibi
ferentárium esse amicum inventum intellego.

Lesb.
Abin hínc dierecte?

Stas.
Si hercle ire occipiam, votes.

Lesb.
Nisi quid me aliud vis, Philto, respondi tibi.

Phil.
Benigniorem, Lesbonice, te mihi,
quam nunc experior esse, confido fore;
nam et stulte facere et stulte fabularier,
utrumque, Lesbonice, in aetate hau bonumst.

Stas.
Verum hercle hic dicit.

Lesb.
Oculum ego ecfodiam tibi,
si verbum addideris.

Stas.
Hercle qui dicam tamen;
nam si sic non licebit, luscus dixero.

Phil.
Ita tu nunc dicis, non esse aequiperabiles

vostras cum nostris factiones atque opes?

Lesb.
Dico.

Phil.
Quid? nunc si in aedem ad cenam veneris
atque ibi opulentus tibi par forte obvenerit
(adposita cena sit, popularem quam vocant),
si illi congestae sint epulae a cluentibus:
si quid tibi placeat quod illi congestum siet,
edisne an incenatus cum opulento accubes?

Lesb.
Edim, nisi si ille votet.

Stas.
At pol ego etsi votet
edim, atque ambabus malis expletis vorem,
et quod illi placeat praeripiam potissimum,
neque illí concedam quicquam de vita mea.
verecundari neminem ápud mensam decet,
nam ibi de divinis atque humanis cernitur.

Phil.
Rem fabulare.

Stas.
Non tibi dicam dolo:
decedam ego illi de via, de semita,
de honore populi; verum quod ad ventrem attinet,
non hercle hoc longe, nisi me pugnis vicerit.
cena hac annona est sine sacris hereditas.

Phil.
Semper tu hoc facito, Lesbonice, cogites,
id optumum esse, tute uti sis optumus;
si id nequeas, saltem ut optumis sis proxumus.

nunc condicionem hanc, quam ego fero et quam abs te peto,
dare atque accipere, Lesbonice, te volo.
di divites sunt, deos decent opulentiae
et factiones, verum nos homunculi,
satillum animai qui quom extemplo emisimus,
aequo mendicus atque ille opulentissimus
censetur censu ad Acheruntem mortuos.

Stas.
Mirum quin tu illo tecum divitias feras.
ubi mortuos sis, ita sis ut nomen cluet.

Phil.
Nunc ut scias hic factiones atque opes
non esse neque nos tuam neglegere gratiam,
sine dote posco tuam sororem filio.
quae res bene vortat — habeon pactam? quid taces?

Stas.
Pro di immortales, condicionem quoius modi.

Phil.
Quin fabulare ‘di bene vortant, spondeo’?

Stas.
Eheú ubi usus nil erat dícto, spondeo
dicebat; nunc hic, quom opus est, non quit dicere.

Lesb.
Quom adfinitate vostra me arbitramini
dignum, habeo vobis, Philto, magnam gratiam.
sed si haec res graviter cecidit stultitia mea,
Philto, est ager sub urbe hic nobis: eum dabo
dotem sorori; nam is de divitiis meis
solus superfit praeter vitam relicuos.

Phil.
Profecto dotem nil moror.

Lesb.
Certumst dare.

Stas.
Nostramne, ere, vis nutricem, quae nos educat,
abalienare a nobis? cave sis feceris.
quid edemus nosmet postea?

Lesb.
Etiam tu taces?
tibi ego rationem reddam?

Stas.
Plane periimus,
nisi quid ego comminiscor. Philto, te volo.

P.
Si quid vis, Stasime.

S.
Huc cóncede aliquantum.

P.
Licet.
Stas.
Arcano tibi ego hoc dico, ne ille ex te sciat
neve alius quisquam.

Phil.
Crede audacter quidlubet.

Stas.
Per deos atque homines dico, ne tu illunc agrum
tuom síris umquam fieri neque gnati tui.
ei rei argumenta dicam.

Phil.
Audire edepol lubet.

Stas.
Primum omnium olim terra cum proscinditur,
in quinto quoque sulco moriuntur boves.

Phil.
Apage, Acheruntis ostium in vostrost agro.

Stas.
Tum vinum prius quam coctumst pendet putidum.

Lesb.
Consuadet homini, credo. etsi scelestus est,
at mi infidelis non est.

Stas.
Audi cetera.
post id, frumenti quom alibi messis maximast,
tribus tántis illi minus redit quam opseveris.

Phil.
Em istic oportet opseri mores malos,
si in opserendo possint interfieri.

Stas.
Neque umquam quisquamst, quoius ille ager fuit,
quin pessume ei res vorterit: quoium fuit,
alii exulatum abierunt, alii emortui,
alii se suspendere. em nunc hic quoius est,
ut ad incitas redactust.

Phil.
Apage a me istum agrum.

Stas.
Magis apage dicas, si omnia ex me audiveris.
nam fulguritae sunt alternae árbores;
sues moriuntur angina acerrume;
oves scabrae sunt, tam glabrae, em, quam haec est manus.

tum autem Surorum, genus quod patientissumumst
hominum, nemo extat qui ibi sex menses vixerit:
ita cuncti solstitiali morbo decidunt.

Phil.
Credo ego istuc, Stasime, ita esse; sed Campans genus
multo Surorum iam antidit patientia.
sed istést ager profecto, ut te audivi loqui,
malos in quem omnes publice mitti decet,
sicut fortunatorum memorant insulas,
quo cuncti qui aetatem egerint caste suam
conveniant; contra istoc detrudi maleficos
aequom videtur, qui quidem istius sit modi.

Stas.
Hospitium est calamitatis: quid verbis opust?
quamvis malam rem quaeras, illic reperias.

Phil.
At tu hercle et illi et alibi.

Stas.
Cave sis dixeris
me tibi dixisse hoc.

Phil.
Dixisti arcano satis.

Stas.
Quin hic quidem cúpit illum ab se abalienarier,
si quem reperire possit cui os sublinat.

Phil.
Meus quídem hercle numquam fiet.

Stas.
Si sapies quidem.
lepide hercle dé agro ego hunc senem deterrui;

nam qui vivamus nihil est, si illum amiserit.

Phil.
Redeo ad te, Lesbonice.

Lesb.
Dic sodes mihi,
quid hic est locutus tecum?

Phil.
Quid censes? homost:
volt fieri liber, verum quod det non habet.

Lesb.
Et ego esse locuples, verum nequiquam volo.

Stas.
Licitumst, si velles; nunc, quom nihil est, non licet.

Lesb.
Quid tecum, Stasime?

Stas.
De istoc quod dixti modo:
si ante voluisses, esses; nunc sero cupis.

Phil.
De dote mecum convenire nil potest:
quid tibi lubet tute agito cum nato meo.
nunc tuam sororem filio posco meo.
quae res bene vortat. quid nunc? etiam consulis?

Lesb.
Quid istíc? quando ita vis: di bene vortant. spondeo.

Stas.
Numquam edepol quoiquam tam expectatus filius
natus quam illuc est spondeo natum mihi.

di fortunabunt vostra consilia.

Phil.
Ita volo.

Lesb.
Sed, Stasime, abi huc ad meam sororem ad Calliclem,
dic hoc negoti quo modo actumst.

Stas.
Ibitur.

Lesb.
Et gratulator meae sorori.

Stas.
Scilicet.

Phil.
I hac, Lesbonice, mecum, ut coram nuptiis
dies cónstituatur; eadem haec confirmabimus. —

Lesb.
Tu ístuc cura quod iussi. ego iam hic ero. —
dic Callicli, me ut convenat.

Stas.
Quin tu i modo.

Lesb.
De dote ut videat quid opus sit facto.

Stas.
I modo.

Lesb.
Nam certumst sine dote haud dare.

Stas.

Quin tu i modo.

Lesb.
Neque enim illi damno umquam esse patiar

Stas.
Abi modo.

Lesb.
Meam néglegentiam.

Stas.
I modo.

Lesb.
Nullo modo
aequom videtur quin quod peccarim

Stas.
I modo.

Lesb.
Potissimum mi id obsit.

Stas.
I modo.

Lesb.
O pater,
enumquam aspiciam te? —

Stas.
I modo, i modo, i modo.
tandem impetravi abiret. di vestram fidem,
edepol re gesta pessume gestam probe,
si quidem ager nobis salvos est; etsi admodum
in ambiguo est etiam nunc quid ea re fuat.
sed id si alienatur, actumst de collo meo,

gestandust peregre clupeus, galea, sarcina:
effugiet ex urbe, ubi erunt factae nuptiae,
ibít istac, aliquo, in maximam malam crucem,
latrocinatum, aut in Asiam aut in Ciliciam.
ibo huc quo mi imperatumst, etsi odi hanc domum,
postquam exturbavit hic nós ex nostris aedibus. —

ACT III.

Callicles
Quó modo tu istuc, Stasime, dixti?

Stasimvs
Nostrum erilem filium
Lesbonicum suam sororem despondisse. em hoc modo.

Call.

Cuí homini despondit?

Stas.
Lysiteli Philtonis filio,
sine dote.

Call.

Sine dote ille illam in tantas divitias dabit?
non credibile dicis.

Stas.
At tu édepol nullus creduas.
si hoc non credis, ego credidero —

C.
Quid?

S.
Me nihili pendere.

Call.

Quam dudum istuc aut ubi actumst?

Stas.
Ilico hic ante ostium,

tam modo, inquit Praenestinus.

Call.

Tanton in re perdita,
quam in re salva Lesbonicus factus est frugalior?

Stas.
Atque equidem ipsus ultro venit Philto oratum filio.

Call.

Flagitium quidem hercle fiet, nisi dos dabitur virgini.
postremo edepol ego istam rem ad me áttinere intellego.
ibo ad meum castigatorem atque ab eo consilium petam. —

Stas.
Propemodum quid illic festinet sentio et subolet mihi:
ut agro evortat Lesbonicum, quando evortit aedibus.
o ere Charmides, quam apsenti hic tua res distrahitur tibi!
utinam te rediisse salvom videam, ut inimicos tuos
ulciscare, ut míhi, ut erga te fui et sum, referas gratiam.
nimium difficilest reperiri amicum ita ut nomen cluet,
quoi tuam quom rem credideris, síne omni cura dormias.
sed generum nostrum ire eccillum video cum adfini suo.
nescio quíd non satis inter eos convenit: celeri gradu
eunt uterque, ille reprehendit hunc priorem pallio.
haud ineuscheme astiterunt. huc aliquantum apscessero:
est lubido orationem audire duorum adfinium.

Lysiteles
Sta ilico, noli avorsari neque te occultassis mihi.

Lesbonicvs
Potin ut me ire quo profectus sum sinas?

Lys.
Si in rem tuam,

Lesbonice, esse videatur, gloriae aut famae, sinam.

Lesb.
Quod est facillumum, facís.

Lys.
Quid id est?

Lesb.
Amico iniuriam.

Ly.
Neque meumst neque facere didici.

Le.

Indoctus quam docte facis.
quid faceres, si quis docuisset te, ut sic odio esses mihi?
qui bene cum simulas facere mihi te, male facis, male consulis.

Lys.
Egone?

Lesb.
Tune.

Lys.
Quid male facio?

Lesb.
Quod ego nolo, id cum facis.

Lys.
Tuae rei bene consulere cupio.

Lesb.
Tu mihi es melior quam egomet mihi?
sat sapio, satis in rem quae sint meam ego conspicio mihi.

Lys.
An id est sapere, ut qui beneficium a benevolente repudies?

Lesb.
Nullum beneficium ésse duco id quod quoi facias non placet.
scio ego et sentio ipse quid agam, neque mens officio migrat,
nec tuis depellar dictis quin rumori serviam.

Lys.
Quid ais? nam retineri nequeo quin dicam ea quae promeres:
itan tandem hanc maiores famam tradiderunt tibi tui,
ut virtute eorum anteparta per flagitium perderes?
atque honori posterorum tuorum ut vindex fieres,
tibi paterque avosque facilem fecit et planam viam
ad quaerundum honorem: tu fecisti ut difficilis foret,
culpa maxume et desidia tuisque stultis moribus.
praeoptavisti, amorem tuom uti virtuti praeponeres.
nunc te hoc pacto credis posse optegere errata? aha, non itast:
cape sis virtutem animo et corde expelle desidiam tuo:
in foro operam amicis da, ne in lecto amicae, ut solitus es.
atque ego istum agrum tíbi relinqui ób eam rem enixe expeto,
ut tibi sit qui te corrigere possis, ne omnino inopiam
cives obiectare possint tibi, quos tu inimicos habes.

Lesb.
Omnia ego istaec quae tu dixti scio, vel exsignavero,
ut rem patriam et gloriam maiorum foedarim meum:
scibam ut esse me deceret, facere non quibam miser;
ita vi Veneris vinctus, otio captus in fraudem incidi.
et tibi nunc, proinde ut merere, summas habeo gratias.

Lys.
At operam perire meam sic et te haec dicta corde spernere †
perpeti nequeo, simul me piget parum pudere te;
et postremo, nisi mi auscultas atque hoc ut dico facis,
tute pone te latebis facile, ne inveniat te Honor,
in occulto iacebis cum te maxume clarum voles.

pernovi equidem, Lesbonice, ingenium tuom ingenuom admodum;
scio te sponte non tuapte errasse, sed amorem tibi
pectus opscurasse; atque ipse Amoris teneo omnis vias.
ita est amor, ballista ut iacitur: nihil sic celere est neque volat;
atque is mores hominum moros et morosos efficit:
minus placet magis quód suadetur, quod dissuadetur placet;
quom inopiast, cupias, quando eius copiast, tum non velis;
ille qui aspéllit is compellit, ille qui cónsuadet vetat.
insanum et malumst in hospítium devorti ad Cupidinem.
sed te moneo hoc etiam atque etiam, ut reputes quid facere expetas.
si istuc, ut conare, facis † indicium tuom incendes genus;
tum igitur tibi aquae érit cupido, genus qui restinguas tuom,
atque sí eris nactus, proinde ut corde amantes sunt cati —
ne scintillam quidem relinques, genus qui congliscat tuom.

Lesb.
Facilest inventu: datur ignis, tametsi ab inimico petas.
sed tu obiurgans me a peccatis rapis deteriorem in viam.
meam vis sororem tibi dem suades sine dote. aha, non convenit
me, qui abusus sum tantam rem patriam, porro in ditiis
esse agrumque habere, egere illam autem, ut me merito oderit.
numquam erit alienis gravis qui suis se concinnat levem.
sicut dixi, faciam: nolo te iactari diutius.

Lys.
Tanto meliust te sororis causa egestatem exsequi
atque eum agrum me habere, quam te, tua qui toleres moenia?

Lesb.
Nolo ego mihi te tam prospicere, qui meam egestatem leves,
sed ut inops infamis ne sim, ne mi hanc famam differant,
me germanam meam sororem in concubinatum tibi,
si sine dote dem, dedisse magis quam in matrimonium.
quis me improbior perhibeatur esse? haec famigeratio
té honestet, me conlutulentet, si sine dote duxeris:
tibi sit emolumentum honoris, mihi quod obiectent siet.

Lys.
Quid? te dictatorem censes fore, si aps té agrum acceperim?

Lesb.
Neque volo neque postulo neque censeo, verum tamen
is est honos homini pudico, meminisse officium suom.

Lys.
Scio equidem te animatus ut sis; video, subolet, sentio:
id agis, ut, ubi adfinitatem inter nos nostram adstrinxeris
atque eum agrum dederis nec quicquam hic tibi sit qui vitam colas,
effugias ex urbe inanis; profugus patriam deseres,
cognatos, adfinitatem, amicos factis nuptiis:
mea opera hinc proterritum te meaque avaritia autument.
id me commissurum ut patiar fieri, ne animum induxeris.

Stas.
Non enim póssum quin exclamem euge. euge, Lysiteles, πάλιν.
facile palmam habes: hic victust, vicit tua comoedia.
hic agit magis ex argumento et versus melioris facit.
etiam ob stultitiam tuam te † curis multabo mina.

Lesb.
Quid tibi intérpellatio aut in consilium huc accessio est?

S.
Eodem pacto, quo huc accessi, apscessero.

Le.

I hac mecum domum,
Lysiteles, ibi de istis rebus plura fabulabimur.

Lys.
Nil ego in occulto agere soleo. meus ut animust, eloquar:
si mihi tua soror, ut ego aequom censeo, ita nuptum datur,
sine dote, neque tu hinc abituru's, quod meum erit id erit tuom;
sin aliter animatus es, bene quod agas eveniat tibi,

ego amicus numquam tibi ero alio pacto. sic sententia est. —

Stas.
Abiit hercle ille quidem. ecquid audis, Lysiteles? ego te volo.
hic quoque hinc ábiit. Stasime, restas solus. quid ego nunc agam,
nisi uti sarcinam constringam et clupeum ad dorsum accommodem,
fulmentas iubeam suppingi soccis? non sisti potest.
video caculam militarem me futurum haud longius:
ad aliquem regem in saginam erus sése coniciet meus;
credo ad summos bellatores acrem fugitorem fore
et capturum spolia ibi illum quí meo ero adversus venerit.
egomet autem quom extemplo arcum mihi et pharetram et ságittas
sumpsero,
cassidem in caput, dormibo placide ín tabernaculo.
ad forum ibo: nudius sextus quoi talentum mutuom
dedi, reposcam, ut habeam, mecum quod feram, viaticum. —

Megaronides
Vt mihi rem narras, Callicles, nullo modo
potest fíeri prosus quin dos detur virgini.

Callicles
Namque hercle honeste fieri ferme non potest,
ut eam perpetiar ire in matrimonium
sine dote, quom eius rem penes me habeam domi.

Meg.
Parata dos domist; nisi expectare vis,
ut eam sine dote frater nuptum conlocet.
post adeas tute Philtonem et dotem dare
te ei dicas, facere id eius ob amícitiam patris.
verum hoc ego vereor, ne istaec pollicitatio
te in crimen populo ponat atque infamiam;
non temere dicant te benignum virgini:
datam tibi dotem, ei quam dares, eius a patre,
ex ea largiri te illi, neque ita ut sit data
columem te sistere illi, et detraxe autument.

nunc si opperiri vis adventum Charmidi,
perlongumst: huic ducendi interea abscesserit
lubido; atque ea condicio huic vel primaria est.

Call.

Nam hercle omnia istaec veniunt in mentem mihi.
vide si hóc utibile magis atque in rem deputas,
ut adeam Lesbonicum, edoceam ut res se habet.
sed ut égo nunc adulescenti thensaurum indicem
indomito, pleno amoris ac lasciviae?
minime, minime hercle vero. nam certo scio,
locum quoque illum omnem, ubi situst, comederit;
quem fodere metuo, sonitum ne ille exaudiat
neu rem ipsam indaget, dotem dare si dixerim.

Meg.
Quo pacto ergo igitur clam dos depromi potest?

Call.

Dum occasio ei rei reperiatur, interim
ab amico alicunde mutuom argentum rogem.

Meg.
Potin est ab amico alicunde exorari?

Call.

Potest.

Meg.
Gerrae. ne tu illud verbum actutum inveneris:
‘mihi quidem hercle non est quod dem mutuom.’

Call.

Malim hercle ut verum dicas, quam ut des mutuom.

Meg.
Sed vide consilium, si placet.

Call.

Quid consilist?

Meg.
Scitum, ut ego opinor, consilium inveni.

Call.

Quid est?

Meg.
Homo cónducatur aliquis iam, quantum potest,
quasi sit peregrinus.

Call.

Quid is scit facere postea?
ignota facie, quae hic non visitata sit;
mendacilocum aliquem

Call.

Quid is scit facere postea?
falsidicum, confidentem.

Call.

Quid tum postea?

Meg.
Is homo exornetur graphice in peregrinum modum;
quasi ad adulescentem a patre ex Seleucia
veniat, salutem ei nuntiet verbis patris:
illum bene gerere rem et valere et vivere,
et eum rediturum actutum; ferat epistulas

duas, éas nos consignemus, quasi sint a patre:
det alteram illi, álteram dicat tibi
dare sese velle.

Call.

Perge porro dicere.

Meg.
Seque aurum ferre virgini dotem a patre
dicat patremque id iussisse aurum tibi dare.
tenes iam?

Call.

Propemodo, atque ausculto perlubens.

Meg.
Tum tú igitur demum adulescenti aurum dabis,
ubi erit locata virgo in matrimonium.

Call.

Scite hercle sane.

Meg.
Hoc, ubi thensaurum effoderis,
suspicionem ab adulescente amoveris:
censebit aurum esse a patre allatum tibi,
tu de thensauro sumes.

Call.

Satis scite et probe;
quamquam hoc me aetatis sycophantari pudet.
sed epistulas quando opsignatas adferet,
sed quom opsignatas attulerit epistulas
nonne arbitraris eum adulescentem anuli

paterni signum novisse?

Meg.
Etiam tu taces?
sescentae ad eam rem causae possunt conligi:
illum quem habuit perdidit, alium post fecit novom.†
iam si opsignatas non feret, dici hoc potest,
apud pórtitorem eas resignatas sibi
inspectasque esse. in huius modi negotio
diem sermone terere segnities merast:
quam vis sermones possunt longi texier.
abi ad thensaurum iam confestim clanculum,
servos ancillas amove. atque audin?

Call.

Quid est?

Meg.
Vxorem quoque eampse hanc rem uti celes face,
nam pol tacere numquam quicquamst quod queat.
quid nunc stas? quin tu hinc amoves et te moves?
aperi, deprome inde auri ad hanc rem quod sat est,
continuo operíto denuo; sed clanculum,
sicut praecepi; cunctos exturba aedibus.

Call.

Ita faciam.

Meg.
At énim nimis lóngo sermone utimur,
diem conficimus quod iam properatost opus.
nihil est de signo quod vereare; me vide:
lepida est illa caúsa, ut commemoravi, dicere
apud pórtitores esse inspectas. denique
diei tempus non vides? quid illúm putas,
natura illa atque ingenio? iam dudum ebriust.

quidvis probare poterit; tum, quod maxumumst,
adferre, non petere hinc se dicet.

Call.

Iam sat est.

Meg.
Ego sycophantam iam conduco de foro
epistulasque iam consignabo duas,
eumque húc ad adulescentem meditatum probe
mittam.

Call.

Eo ego igitur intro ad officium meum.
tu istuc age. —

Meg.
Actum reddam nugacissume. —

ACT IV.

Charmides

Salsípotenti et mulsípotenti Iovis frátri et Nerei Néptuno
laetús lubens laudes ágo et grates gratiásque habeo et fluctibus salsis,
quos pénes mei fuit saepé potestas, bonis meís quid foret et meaé vitae,
quom suís med ex locis ín patriam suavíssumam reducem fáciunt.
atque égo, Neptune, tibi ánte alios deos grátias ago atque habeó summas;
nam te ómnes saevomqué severumque atque ávidis moribus cómmemorant,
spurcíficum, immanem, intólerandum, vesánum: contra opera éxpertus,
nam pól placido te et clémenti meo usqué modo, ut volui, usús sum in alto.
atque hánc tuam gloriam iam ánte auribus accéperam, et nobilest ápud homines,
paupéribus te parcére solitum, dités damnare atqué domare.
abi, laúdo, scis ordíne, ut aequomst, tractáre homines; hoc dís dignumst.
semper mendicis modesti sint.
fidús fuisti: infidum ésse iterant; nam apsqué foret te, sat scío in alto
distráxissent disqué tulissent satellítes tui me miserúm foede
bonaque ómnia mea item uná mecum passím caeruleos pér campos:
ita iám quasi canes, haud sécus, circum stabánt navem turbinés venti,
imbrés fluctusque atqué procellae infénsae frangere málum,
ruere ántemnas, scindére vela, ni túa pax propitia fóret praesto.
apage á me sis, dehinc iám certumst otió dare me; satis pártum habeo
quibus aérumnis delúctavi, filió dum divitiás quaero.
sed quís hic est, qui in plateam íngreditur
cum nóvo ornatu speciéque simul?
pol quámquam domi cupio, ópperiar,
quam hic rém agat animum advortam.

Sycophanta
Huíc ego die nomén Trinummo fáciam: nam ego operám meam
tribus nummis hodie locavi ad artis nugatorias.
advenio ex Seleucia, Macedonia, Asia atque Arabia,
quas ego neque oculis nec pedibus umquam usurpavi meis.
viden egestas quid negoti dat homini misero mali,
quin ego nunc subigor trium nummum causa ut hasce epistulas
dicam ab eo homine me accepisse, quem ego qui sit homo nescio
neque novi, neque natus necne is fuerit, id solide scio.

Charm.
Pol hic quidem fungino generest: capite se totum tegit.
Hilurica facies videtur hominis, eo ornatu advenit.

Syc.
Ille qui mé conduxit, ubi conduxit, abduxit domum,
quae voluit mihi dixit, docuit et praemonstravit prius,
quo modo quicque agerem; nunc adeo si quid ego addidero amplius,
eo conductor melius de me nugas conciliaverit.
ut ille me exornavit, ita sum ornatus; argentum hoc facit.
ipse ornamenta a chorago haec sumpsit suo periculo.
nunc ego si potero ornamentis hominem circumducere,
dabo operam, ut me esse ipsum plane sycophantam sentiat.

Charm.
Quam magis spécto, minus placet mi haec hominis facies. mira sunt,
ni illic homost aut dormitator aut sector zonarius.
loca contemplat, circumspectat sese atque aedis noscitat.
credo edepol, quo mox furatum veniat speculatur loca.
magis lubidost opservare quid agat: ei rei operam dabo.

Syc.
Has regiones demonstravit mi ille conductor meus;
apud illas aedis sistendae mihi sunt sycophantiae.
fores pultabo.

Charm.

Ad nostras aedis hic quidem habet rectam viam.
hercle opinor mi advenienti hac noctu agitandumst vigilias.

Syc.
Aperite hoc, aperite. heus, ecquis his fóribus tutelam gerit?

Ch.
Quid, adulescens, quaeris? quid vis? quid istas pultas?

S.
Heus senex,
census cum sum, iuratori recte rationem dedi.

...

Lesbonicum hic adulescentem quaero in his regionibus
ubi habitet, et item alterum ád istanc capitis albitudinem:
Calliclem aiebat vocari qui has dedit mi epistulas.

Charm.
Meum gnatum hic quidem Lesbonicum quaerit et amicum meum,
cuí ego liberosque bonaque commendavi, Calliclem.

Syc.
Fac me, si scis, certiorem, hisce homines ubi habitent, pater.

Charm.
Quid eos quaeris? aut quis es? aut unde es? aut unde advenis?

Syc.
Multa simul rogitas, nescio quid expediam potissimum.
si unum quidquid singillatim et placide percontabere,
et meum nómen et mea facta et itinera ego faxo scias.

Charm.
Faciam ita ut vis. agedum nomen tuom primum memora mihi.

Syc.

Magnum facinus incipissis petere.

Ch.
Quid ita?

Syc.
Quia, pater,
si ante lucem íre occipias a meo prímo nomine,
concubium sit noctis prius quam ad postremum perveneris.

Charm.
Opus factost viatico ad tuom nomen, ut tu praedicas.

Syc.
Est minusculum alterum, quasi vixillum vinarium.

Charm.
Quid est tibi nomen, adulescens?

Syc.
Pax, id est nomen mihi.
hoc cotidianumst.

Charm.
Edepol nomen nugatorium,
quasi dicas, si quid crediderim tibi, pax — periisse ilico.
hic homo solide sycophantast. quid ais tu, adulescens?

Syc.
Quid est?

Charm.
Eloquere, isti tibi quid homines debent, quos tu quaeritas?

Syc.
Pater istius adulescentis dedit has duas mi epistulas,
Lesbonici. is mi est amicus.

Charm.
Teneo hunc manifestarium.
me sibi epistulas dedisse dicit. ludam hominem probe.

Syc.
Ita ut occepi, si animum advortas, dicam.

Charm.
Dabo operam tibi.

Syc.
Hanc me iussit Lesbonico suo gnato dare epistulam,
et item hanc alteram suo amico Callicli iussit dare.

Charm.
Mihi quoque edepol, quom hic nugatur, contra nugari lubet.
ubi ipse erat?

Sy.
Bene rem gerebat.

Ch.
Ergo ubi?

Sy.
In Seleucia.

Ch.
Ab ipson istas accepisti?

Syc.
E manibus dedit mi ipse in manus.

Ch.
Qua facie est homo?

S.
Sesquipede quiddamst quam tu longior.

Charm.
Haeret haec res, siquidem ego apsens sum quam praesens longior.
novistin hominem?

Syc.
Ridicule rogitas, quicum una cibum
capere soleo.

Ch.
Quid est ei nomen?

Syc.
Quod edepol homini probo.

Charm.
Lubet audire.

Syc.
Illi edepol — illi — ílli — vae misero mihi.

Charm.
Quid est negoti?

Syc.
Devoravi nomen imprudens modo.

Charm.
Non placet qui amicos intra dentes conclusos habet.

Syc.
Atque etiam modo vorsabatur mi in labris primoribus.

Charm.
Temperi huic hodie anteveni.

Syc.
Teneor manifesto miser.

Charm.

Iam recommentatu's nomen?

Syc.
Deum hercle me atque hominum pudet.

Ch.
Vide modo ut hóminem noveris.

S.
Tam quam me. fieri istuc solet,
quod in manu teneas atque oculis videas, id desideres.
litteris recomminiscar. C est principium nomini.

Ch.
Callias?

S.
Non est.

Ch.
Callippus?

S.
Non est.

Ch.
Callidemides?

S.
Non est.

Ch.
Callinicus?

S.
Non est.

Ch.
Callimarchus?

S.
Nil agis.
neque adeo edepol flocci facio, quando egomet memini mihi.

Charm.
At enim multi Lesbonici sunt hic: nisi nomen patris
dices, non monstrare istos possum homines quos tu quaeritas.
quod ad exemplum est? coniectura si reperire possumus.

Syc.
Ad hoc exemplum est —

Charm.
An Chares? an Charmides?

Syc.
Enim Charmides.
em istic erit. qui istum di perdant. dixi ego iam dudum tibi:

...

Charm.
Te potius bene dicere aequomst homini amico, quam male.

Syc.
Satin inter labra atque dentes latuit vir minimi preti?

Ch.
Ne male loquere apsenti amico.

Syc.
Quíd ergo ille ignavissumus
mihi latitabat?

Charm.
Si appellasses, respondisset, nomine.
sed ipse ubi est?

S.
Pol illúm reliqui ad Rhadamantem in Cecropia insula.†

Ch.
Quis homo est me insipientior, qui ipse, egomet ubi sim, quaeritem?
sed nil disconducit huic rei. quid ais? quid hoc quod te rogo?
quos locos adiisti?

Syc.
Nimium mirimodis mirabiles.

Charm.
Lubet audire, nisi molestumst.

Syc.
Quin discupio dicere.
omnium prímum in Pontum advecti ad Arabiam terram sumus.

Ch.
Eho an etiam Arabiast in Ponto?

S.
Est: non illa ubi tus gignitur,
sed ubi apsinthium fit atque cunila gallinacea.

Charm.
Nimium graphicum hunc nugatorem. sed ego sum insipientior,
qui egomet unde redeam hunc rogitem, quae ego sciam atque hic nesciat;
nisi quia lubet experiri, quo evasurust denique.
sed quid ais? quo inde isti porro?

Syc.
Si animum advortes, eloquar.
ad caput amnis, quod de caelo exoritur sub solio Iovis.

Ch.
Sub solio Iovis?

S.
Ita dico.

Ch.
E caelo?

S.
Atque e medio quidem.

Ch.
Eho an etiam ín caelum escendisti?

S.
Immo horiola advecti sumus,
usque aqua advorsa per amnem.

Charm.
Eho an tu etiam vidisti Iovem?

Syc.
Alii di isse ad villam aiebant servis depromptum cibum.
deinde porro —

Charm.
Deinde porro nolo quicquam praedices.

Syc.
Sed —

Cha.
Abeo hercle, si es molestus. nam pudicum neminem,
Pax, referre oportet, qui aps terra ad caelum pervenerit.

Syc.
Faciam ita ut te velle video. sed monstra hosce homines mihi,
quos ego quaero, quibus me oportet has deferre epistulas.

Charm.

Quid ais? tu nunc si forte eumpse Charmidem conspexeris,
illum quem tibi istás dedisse commemoras epistulas,
norisne hominem?

Syc.
Ne tu me edepol arbitrare beluam,
qui quidem nón novisse possim quicum aetatem exegerim.
an ille tam esset stultus, qui mihi mille nummum crederet
Philippum, quod me aurum deferre iussit ad gnatum suom
atque ad amicum Calliclem, quoi rem aibat mandasse hic suam?
mihi concrederet, nisi me ille ét ego illum nossem approbe?

Charm.
Enim vero ego nunc sycophantae huic sycophantari volo,
si hunc possum illo mille nummum Philippum circumducere,
quod sibi me dedisse dixit, quem ego qui sit homo nescio
neque oculis ante hunc diem umquam vidi. eine aurum crederem,
quoi, si capitis res sit, nummum numquam credam plumbeum?
adgrediundust hic homo mi astu. heus, Pax, te tribus verbis volo.

Syc.
Vel trecentis.

Charm.
Haben tu id aurum quod accepisti a Charmide?

Syc.
Atque etiam Philippúm, numeratum illius in mensa manu,
mille nummum.

Charm.
Nempe ab ipso id accepisti Charmide?

Syc.
Mirum quin ab avo eius aut próavo acciperem, qui sunt mortui.

Ch.
Adulescens, cedo dum istuc aurum mi.

S.
Quod ego aurum dem tibi?

Ch.
Quod a me te accepisse fassu's.

S.
Aps te accepisse?

Ch.
Ita loquor.

S.
Quis tu homo es?

Ch.
Qui mille nummum tibi dedi ego sum Charmides.

Syc.
Neque edepol tu is es neque hodie is umquam eris, auro huic quidem.
abi sis, nugator: nugari nugatori postulas.

Ch.
Charmides ego sum.

S.
Nequiquam hercle es, nam nihil auri fero.
nimis argute óbrepsisti in eapse occasiuncula:
postquam ego me aurum ferre dixi, post tu factu's Charmides;
prius tu non eras, quam aúri feci mentionem. nihil agis;
proin tu te, itidem ut charmidatus es, rursum recharmida.

Charm.
Quis ego sum igitur, siquidem is non sum qui sum?

Syc.
Quid id ad me attinet?
dúm ille ne sis quem ego esse nolo, sis mea caúsa qui lubet.

prius non is eras quí eras: nunc is factu's qui tum non eras.

Charm.
Age si quid agis.

Syc.
Quid ego agam?

Charm.
Aurum redde.

Syc.
Dormitas, senex.

Charm.
Fassu's Charmidem dedisse aurum tibi.

Syc.
Scriptum quidem.

Charm.
Properas an non properas ire actutum ab his regionibus,
dormitator, prius quam ego hic te iubeo mulcari male?

Syc.
Quam ob rem?

Charm.
Quia illum quem ementitus es, ego sum ipsus Charmides,
quem tibi epistulas dedisse aiebas.

Syc.
Eho, quaeso, an tu is es?

Charm.
Is enim vero sum.

Syc.
Ain tu tandem? is ipsusne es?

Charm.
Aio.

Syc.
Ipsus es?

C.
Ipsus, inquam, Charmides sum.

S.
Ergo ipsusne es?

C.
Ipsissimus.
abin hinc ab oculis?

Syc.
Enim véro serio, quoniam advenis —
vapulabis meo arbitratu ét novorum aedilium.

Charm.
At etiam maledicis?

Syc.
Immo, salvos quandoquidem advenis —
di te perdant, si te flocci facio an periisses prius.
ego ob hanc operam argentum accepi, te macto infortunio:
ceterum qui sis, qui non sis, floccum non interduim.
ibo, ad illúm renuntiabo qui mihi tris nummos dedit,
ut sciat se perdidisse. ego abeo. male vive et vale.
qui te di omnes advenientem peregre perdant, Charmides. —

Charm.
Postquam illic hinc ábiit, post loquendi libere
videtur tempus venisse atque occasio.
iam dudum meum ille pectus pnngit aculeus,
quid illí negoti fuerit ante aedis meas.
nam epistula illa mihi concenturiat metum

in corde et illud mille nummum quam rem agat.
numquam edepol temere tinnit tintinnabulum:
nisi qui illud tractat aut movet, mutumst, tacet.
sed quis hic est, qui huc in plateam cursuram incipit?
lubet observare quid agat: huc concessero.

Stasimvs
Stasime, fac te propere celerem, recipe te ad dominum domum,
ne subito metus exoriatur scapulis stultitia tua.
adde gradum, adpropera. iam dudum factumst, cum abiisti domo.
cave sis tibi, ne bubuli in te cottabi crebri crepent,
si aberis ab eri quaestione. ne destiteris currere.
ecce hominem te, Stasime, nihili: satin in thermipolio
condalium es oblitus, postquam thermopotasti gutturem?
recipe te et recurre petere re recenti.

Charm.
Huic, quisquis est,
gurguliost exercitór: is hunc hóminem cursuram docet.

Stas.
Quid, homo nihili, non pudet te? tribusne te poteriis
memoriam esse oblitum? an vero, quia cum frugi hominibus
ibi bibisti, qui ab alieno facile cohiberent manus?
Truthus fuit, Cerconicus, Crinnus, Cercobulus, Collabus,
oculicrepidae cruricrepidae, ferriteri mastigiae:
inter eosne homines condalium te redipisci postulas?
quorum eorum únus surrupuit currenti cursori solum.

Ch.
Ita me di ament, graphicum furem.

S.
Quid ego quod periit petam?
nisi etiam laborem ad damnum ápponam epithecam insuper.
quin tu quod periit periisse ducis? cape vorsoriam,
recipe te ad erum.

Charm.
Non fugitivost hic homo, commeminit domi.

Stas.
Vtinam veteres hominum mores, veteres parsimoniae
potius in maiore honore hic essent quam mores mali.

Charm.
Di immortales, basilica hic quidem facinora inceptat loqui.
vetera quaerit, vetera amare hunc more maiorum scias.

Stas.
Nam nunc mores nihili faciunt quod licet, nisi quod lubet:
ambitio iam more sanctast, liberast a legibus;
scuta iacere fugereque hostis more habent licentiam:
petere honorem pro flagitio more fit.

Charm.
Morem improbum.

Stas.
Strenuiores praeterire more fit.

Charm.
Nequam quidem.

Stas.
Mores leges perduxerunt iam in potestatem suam,
magisque is sunt obnoxiosae quam parentes liberis.
eae miserae etiam ad parietem sunt fixae clavis ferreis,
ubi malos mores adfigi nimio fuerat aequius.

Charm.
Lubet adire atque appellare hunc; verum ausculto perlubens
et metuo, si compellabo, ne aliam rem occipiat loqui.

Stas.
Neque istis quicquam lege sanctumst: leges mori serviunt,

mores autem rapere properant qua sacrum qua publicum.

Charm.
Hercle istis malam rem magnam moribus dignumst dari.

S.
Nonne hoc publice animum advorti? nam id genus hominum omnibus
univorsis est advorsum atque omni populo male facit:
male fidem servando illis quoque abrogant etiam fidem,
qui nil meriti; quippe eorum ex ingenio ingenium horum probant.
hoc qui in mentem venerit mihi? re ipsa modo commonitus sum.
si quoi mutuom quid dederis, fit pro proprio perditum:
quom repetas, inimicum amicum beneficio invenias tuo.
si mage exigere occupias, duarum rerum exoritur optio:
vel illud quod credideris perdas, vel illum amicum amiseris.

Ch.
Meus est hic quidem Stasimus servos.

S.
Nam ego talentum mutuom
quoi dederam, talento inimicum mi emi, amicum vendidi.
sed ego sum insipientior, qui rebus curem publicis
potius quam, id quod proxumumst, meo tergo tutelam geram.
eo domum.

Ch.
Heus tu, asta ilico. audi.

S.
Heús tu, non sto.

Ch.
Te volo.

St.
Quid si ego me te velle nolo?

Ch.
Aha nimium, Stasime, saeviter.

S.
Emere meliust cui imperes.

Ch.
Pol ego emi atque argentum dedi;
sed si non dicto audiens est, quid ago?

Stas.
Da magnum malum.

Charm.
Bene mones, ita facere certumst.

Stas.
Nisi quidem es obnoxius.

Charm.
Si bonus es, obnoxius sum; sin secus es, faciam ut iubes.

Stas.
Quid id ad me attinet, bonisne servis tu utare an malis?

Charm.
Quia boni malique in ea re pars tibi est.

Stas.
Partem alteram
tibi permitto; illam alteram ápud me, quod bonist, apponito.

Charm.
Sí eris meritus, fiet. respice huc ad me. ego sum Charmides.

Stas.
Hem quis est qui mentionem homo hominis fecit optumi?

Charm.

Ipsus homo optumus.

Stas.
Mare terra caelum, di vestram fidem,
satin ego oculis plane video? estne ipsus an non est? is est,
certe is est, is est profecto. o mí ere exoptatissime,
salve.

Ch.
Salve, Stasime.

S.
Salvom te —

Ch.
Scio et credo tibi.
sed omitto alia, hoc mihi responde: liberi quid agunt mei,
quos reliqui hic filium atque filiam?

Stas.
Vivont, valent.

Ch.
Nempe uterque?

S.
Vterque.
Ch.
Di me salvom et servatum volunt.
cetera intus otiose percontabor quae volo.
eamus intro, sequere.

S.
Quo tu té agis?

Ch.
Quonam nisi domum?

Stas.
Hicine nos habitare censes?

Charm.
Vbinam ego alibi censeam?

S.
Iam —

Ch.
Quid iam?

S.
Non sunt nostrae aedis istae.

Ch.
Quid ego ex te audio?

Stas.
Vendidit tuos natus aedis.

Charm.
Perii.

Stas.

Praesentariis
argenti minis numeratis —

Ch.
Quot?

S.
Quadraginta.
Ch.

Occidi.
quis eas emit?

Stas.
Callicles, cui tuam rem commendaveras;
is habitatum huc commigravit nosque exturbavit foras.

Charm.
Vbi nunc filius meus habitat?

Stas.
Hic in hoc posticulo.

Charm.
Male disperii.

Stas.
Credidi aegre tibi id, ubi audisses, fore.

Charm.
Ego miserrumis periclis sum per maria maxuma
vectus, capitali periclo per praedones plurimos
me servavi, salvos redii: nunc hic disperii miser,
propter eosdem quorum causa fui hac aetate exercitus.
adimit animam mi aegritudo. Stasime, tene me.

Stas.
Visne aquam
tibi petam?

Ch.
Res quom animam agebat, tum esse offusam oportuit.

Callicles
Quid hoc híc clamoris audio ante aedis meas?

Charm.
O Callicles, o Callicles, o Callicles,
qualine amico mea commendavi bona?

Call.

Probo et fideli et fido et cum magna fide.
et salve et salvom te advenisse gaudeo.

Charm.
Credo, omnia istaec sí ita sunt ut praedicas.
sed quis iste est tuos ornatus?

Call.

Ego dicam tibi.
thensaurum effodiebam intus, dotem, filiae
tuae quaé daretur. sed intus narrabo tibi
et hoc et alia. sequere.

Ch.
Stasime.

St.
Hem.

Ch.

Strenue
curre in Piraeum, atque unum curriculum face.
videbis iam illic navem qua advecti sumus.
iubeto Sangarionem quae imperaverim
curare ut efferantur, et tu ito simul.
solutumst portitori iam portorium:
nihil est morae. i, i, ambula, actutum redi.

Stas.
Illic sum atque hic sum.

Call.

Sequere tu hac me intro. —

Charm.

Sequor. —

Stas.
Hic meo ero amicus solus firmus restitit,
neque demutavit animum de firma fide,
quamquam labores multos
sed hic unus, ut ego suspicor, servat fidem.
† ob rem laborem eum ego cepisse censeo. —

ACT V.

Lysiteles
Hic homóst omnium hominum praécipuos,
voluptátibus gaudiisque ántepotens:
ita cómmoda quae cupio éveniunt,
quod ago ádsequitur, subest, súbsequitur,
ita gaúdiis gaudium súppeditat.
módo me Stasimus Lesbonici servos convenit domi;
is mihi dixit, suom erum peregre huc advenisse Charmidem.
nunc mi is propere conveniundust, ut quae cum eius filio
egi, ei rei fundus pater sit potior. eo quantum potest.
sed fores haé sonitu suo míhi moram obiciunt incommode.

Charmides
Neque fuit neque erit neque esse quemquam hominem in terra arbitror,
quoi fides fidelitasque amicum erga aequiperet tuam;
nam exaedificavisset me ex his aedibus, apsque te foret.

Callicles
Si quid amicum erga bene feci aut consului fideliter,
non videor meruisse laudem, culpa caruisse arbitror.
nam beneficium, homini proprium quod datur, † prosumpserit,
quod datum utendumst, id repetundi copiast quando velit.

Charm.
Est ita ut tu dicis. sed ego hoc nequeo mirari satis,
eum sororem despondisse suam in tam fortem familiam.

Call.

Lysiteli quidem Philtonis filio.

Lys.
Enim me nominat.

Charm.
Familiam optumam occupavit.

Lys.
Quid ego cesso hos conloqui?
sed maneam etiam opinor, namque hoc commodum orditur loqui.

Ch.
Vah.

Call.

Quid est?

Ch.
Oblitus intus dudum tibi sum dicere:
modo mi advenienti nugator quidam occessit obviam,
nimis pergraphicus sycophanta; is mille nummum se aureum
meo datu tibi ferre et gnato Lesbonico aibat meo;
quem ego nec qui esset noram, neque eum ante usquam conspexi
prius.
sed quid rides?

Call.

Meo adlegatu venit, quasi qui aurum mihi
ferret aps te, quod darem tuae gnatae dotem, ut filius
tuos, quando illi a me darem, esse allatum id aps te crederet
neu qui rem ipsam posset intellegere, et thensaurum tuom
me esse penes, atque eum a me lege populi patrium posceret.

Charm.
Scite edepol.

Call.

Megaronides communis hoc meus et tuos
benevolens commentust.

Charm.
Quin conlaudo consilium et probo.

Lys.
Quid ego ineptus, dum sermonem vereor interrumpere,
solus sto nec quod conatus sum agere ago? hominis conloquar.

Ch.
Quis hic est, qui huc ad nos incedit?

L.
Charmidem socerum suom
Lysiteles salutat.

Charm.
Di dent tibi, Lysiteles, quae velis.

Call.

Non ego sum salute dignus?

Lys.
Immo salve, Callicles;
hunc priorem aequomst me habere: tunica propior palliost.

Call.

Deos volo consilia vostra vobis recte vortere.

Charm.
Filiam meam tíbi desponsam esse audio.

Lys.
Nisi tu nevis.

Ch.
Immo haud nolo.

L.

Sponden ergo tuam gnatam uxorem mihi?

Charm.
Spondeo, et mille auri Philippum dotis.

Lys.
Dotem nil moror.

Charm.
Si illa tibi placet, placenda dos quoque est quam dat tibi.
postremo quod vis non duces, nisi illud quod non vis feres.

Call.

Ius hic orat.

Lys.
Impetrabit te advocato atque arbitro.
istac lege filiam tuam spónden mi uxorem dari?

Ch.
Spondeo.

C.
Et ego spondeo ídem hoc.

L.
Oh salvete, adfines mei.

Charm.
Atque edepol sunt res, quas propter tibi tamen suscensui.

Lys.
Quid ego feci?

Charm.
Meum corrumpi quia perpessu's filium.

Lys.

Si id mea voluntate factumst, est quod mihi suscenseas.
sed sine me hoc aps te impetrare quod volo.

Ch.
Quid id est?

L.
Scies.
si quid stulte fecit, ut ea missa facias omnia.
quid quassas caput?

Ch.
Cruciatur cor mi, et metuo.

L.
Quidnam id est?

Charm.
Quom ille itast ut esse nolo, id crucior; metuo, si tibi
denegem quod me oras, ne te leviorem erga me putes.
non gravabor. faciam ita ut vis.

Lys.
Probus es. eo, ut illum evocem.

Charm.
Miserumst, male promerita, ut merita sunt, si ulcisci non licet.

Lys.
Aperite hoc, aperite propere et Lesbonicum, si domist,
foras evocate: ita subitost propere quod eum conventum volo.

Lesbonicvs
Quis homo tam tumultuoso sonitu me excivit subito foras?

Lys.
Benevolens tuos atque amicus.

Lesb.
Satine salve? dic mihi.

Lys.
Recte. tuom patrem rediisse salvom peregre gaudeo.

Le.

Quis id ait?

Ly.
Ego.

Le.

Tun vidisti?

Ly.
Et tute item videas licet.

Lesb.
O pater, pater mi, salve.

Charm.
Salve multum, gnate mi.

Lesb.
Si quid tibi, pater, laboris —

Charm.
Nihil evenit, ne time:
bene re gesta salvos redeo — si tu modo frugi esse vis.
haec tibi pactast Callicli huius filia.

Lesb.
Ego ducam, pater,
et eam et si quam aliam iubebis.

Charm.

Quamquam tibi suscensui,
miseria una uni quidem hominist adfatim.

Call.

Immo huic parumst,
nam si pro peccatis centum ducat uxores, parumst.

Lesb.
At iam posthac temperabo.

Charm.
Dicis, si facies modo.

Lys.
Numquid causaest quin uxorem cras domum ducam?

Charm.
optimumst. Licet.
tu in perendinum paratus sis ut ducas.

Omnes

Plaudite.

TRUCULENTUS

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PROLOGVS

Perparvam partem postulat Plautus loci
de vestris magnis atque amoenis moenibus,
Athenas quo sine architectis conferat.
quid nunc? daturin estis an non? adnuont.
scio rém quidem urbis me ablaturum sine mora;
quid si de vostro quippiam orem? abnuont.
eu hercle in vobis resident mores pristini,
ad denegandum ut celeri lingua utamini.
sed hoc agamus quá huc ventumst gratia.
Athenis mutabo ita ut hoc est proscaenium
tantisper dum transigimus hanc comoediam.
hic habitat mulier, nomen cui est Phronesium;
haec huius saecli mores in se possidet:
numquam ab amatore suo postulat id quod datumst,
sed relicuom dat operam ne sit relicuom,
poscendo atque auferendo, ut mos est mulierum;
nam omnes id faciunt, cum se amari intellegunt.

...

ea se peperisse puerum simulat militi,
quo citius rem ab eo averrat cum pulvisculo.
quid multa? †stuic superet muliere
†hiscum anima ad eum habenti erce teritur.

ACT I.

Diniarchvs
Non omnis aetas ad perdiscendum sat est
amanti, dum id perdiscat, quot pereat modis;
neque eam rationem eapse umquam educet Venus,
quam penes amantum summa summarum redit,
quot amans exemplis ludificetur, quot modis
pereat quotque exoretur exorabulis:
quot illíc blanditiae, quót illic iracundiae
sunt, quot supplicia danda, di vostram fidem, hui,
quid perierandum est etiam, praeter munera:
primumdum merces annua, is primus bolust,
ob eam tres noctes dantur; interea loci
†aut ara aut vinum aut oleum aut triticum,
temptat benignusne an bonae frugi sies:
quasi in piscinam rete qui iaculum parat,
quando abiit rete pessum, adducit lineam;
si inierit rete piscis, ne effugiat cavet:
dum huc dum illuc rete circumvortit, impedit
piscis usque adeo donicum eduxit foras.
itidem si amator id quod oratur dedit
atque est benignus potius quam frugi bonae
adduntur noctes, interim ille hamum vorat,
si semel amoris poculum accepit meri
eaque intra pectus se penetravit potio,
extemplo et ipsus periit et res et fides.
si iratum scortumst forte amatori suo,
bis perit amator, ab re atque ab animo simul;
sin alter altri propitiust, idem perit:
si raras noctes ducit, ab animo perit;
sin crebras ducit, ipsus gaudet, res perit.
†iteca in aedibus lenosis†
prius quam únum dederis, centum quae poscat parat:
aut periit aurum aút conscissa pallula est
aut empta ancilla aut aliquod vasum argenteum

aut vasum ahenum antiquom aut lectus †laptiles
aut armariola Graeca, aut aliquid semper est
quod † petra debeatque amans scorto suo.
atque haec celamus nos clam magna industria,
quom rem fidemque nosque nosmet perdimus,
ne qui parentes neu cognati sentiant;
quos cum celamus si faximus conscios,
qui nostrae aetati tempestivo temperent,
unde anteparta demus postpartoribus,
faxim lenonum et scortorum † plus est
et minus damnosorum hominum quam nunc sunt siet.
nam nunc lenonum et scortorum plus est fere,
quam olim muscarum est cum caletur maxime.
nam nusquam alibi si sunt, circum argentarias
scorta et lenones qui sedent cottidie,
ea nimia est ratio; quippe qui certo scio,
ibi plus scortorum esse iam quam ponderum.
quos quidem quam ád rem dicam in argentariis
referre habere, nisi pro tabulis, nescio,
ubi aera perscribantur usuraria:
accepta dico, expensa ne qui censeat.
postremo id magno in populo † mulier hominibus,
re placida atque otiosa, victis hostibus:
amare oportet omnes qui quod dent habent.
nam mihi haec méretrix quae hic habet, Phronesium,
suom nómen omne ex pectore exmovit meo,
phronesim, nam phronesis est sapientia.
nam me fuisse huic fateor summum atque intumum,
quod amantis multo pessimum est pecuniae;
eadem postquam alium repperit qui plus daret,
damnosiorem, † mihi exinde immovit loco,
quem antehác odiosum sibi esse memorabat mala,
Babyloniensem militem. is nunc dicitur
venturus peregre; eo nunc commenta est dolum:
peperisse simulat sese, ut me extrudat foras
atque ut cum solo pergraecetur milite;
eum esse simulat militem puero patrem.

eum istí suppositum puerum opinor pessumae.
mihi verba retur dare se? án me censuit
celare se potesse, gravida si foret?
nam ego Lemno advenio Athenas nudius tertius,
legatus hinc quo cum publico imperio fui.
sed haec quidem eius Astaphium est ancillula;
cum ea quoque etiam mihi fuit commercium.

Astaphivm
Ad fores auscultate atque adservate aedis,
ne quis adventor gravior abaetat quam adveniat,
neu, qui manus attulerit steriles intro ad nos,
gravidas foras exportet. novi ego hominum mores;
ita nunc adulescentes morati sunt: quini
aut seni adveniunt ad scorta congerrones;
consulta sunt consilia: quando intro advenerunt,
oenús eorum aliqui oscúlum amicae usque oggerít, dum illi agant ceterí cleptae;
sin vídent quempiam se adsérvare, obludiánt qui custodem óblectent
per ióculum et ludum; dé nostro saepe édunt: quod fartorés, faciunt.
fit pól hoc, et pars spectátorum scitís pol haec vos me haud méntiri,
†ibi sibus pugnae et vírtuti de praédonibus praedám capere.
at ecástor nos rursúm lepide referímus gratiam furíbus nostris:
nam ipsí vident cum eorum ággerimus bona atque étiam ultro ipsi aggerúnt ad nos.

Din.
Me illís quidem haec verberat vérbis,
nam ego húc bona mea degéssi.

Ast.
Commémini, iam pol ego eúmpse ad nos, si dómi erit, mecum addúcam.

Din.
Heus, máne dum, Astaphium, príus quam abis.

Ast.
Quí revocat?

Din.
Scies: réspice huc.

Ast.
Quis est?

Din.
Vobís qui multa bóna esse volt.

Ast.
Dato, si ésse vis.

Din.
Fáxo erunt. réspice huc modo.

Ast.
Oh,
enícas me miseram, quísquis es.

Din.
Péssuma, mane.

Ast.
Óptume, odio es.
Díniarchusne íllic est? átque is est.

Din.
Sálva sis.

Ast.
Ét tu.

Din.
Fer cóntra manum et paritér gradere.

Ast.

Tuis sérvio atque audiens sum ímperiis.

Din.
Quid agís?

Ast.
Valeo et validúm teneo.
péregre quoniam ádvenis, céna detur.

Din.
Bene dícis benignequé vocas, Astáphium.

Ast.
Amabo,
sine me íre, era quo iussít.

Din.
Eas. sed quíd ais?

Ast.
Quid vis?

Din.
Dic quó iter inceptás; quis est quem arcéssis?

Ast.

Archilínem
†obstetricem.

Din.
Mála tu femina es, oles únde es disciplinam.
manifesto mendaci, mala, teneo te.

Ast.
Quid iam, amabo?

Din.
Quia te adducturam huc dixeras eumpse, non eampse;

nunc mulier facta est iam ex viro: mala es praestrigiatrix.
sed tandem eloquere, quis is homost, Astaphium? novos amator?

Ast.
Nimis otiosum te arbitror hominem esse.

Din.
Qui arbitrare?

Ast.
Quia tuo vestimento et cibo alienis rebus curas.

Din.
Vos mihi dedistis otium.

Ast.
Qui, amabo?

Din.
Ego expedibo.
rem perdidi apud vos, vos meum negotium abstulistis.
si rem servassem, fuit ubi negotiosus essem.

Ast.
An tu te Veneris publicum aut Amoris alia lege
habere posse postulas, quin otiosus fias?

Din.
Illa, haud ego, habuit publicum: pervorse interpretaris;
nam advorsum legem meam ob meam scripturam pecudem cepit.

Ast.
Plerique idem quod tu facis faciunt rei male gerentes:
ubi non est, scripturam unde dent, incusant publicanos.

Din.
Male vertit res pecuaria mihi apud vos: nunc vicissim
volo habere aratiunculam pro copia hic apud vos.

Ast.
Non arvos hic, sed pascuost ager: si arationes
habituru's, quí arari solent, ad pueros ire meliust.
hunc nos habemus publicum, illi alii sunt publicani.

Din.
Vtrosque pergnovi probe.

Ast.
Em istoc pol tu otiosu's,
cum et illíc et hic pervorsus es. sed utriscum rem esse mavis?

Din.
Procaciores estis vos, sed illí periuriores;
illis perit quidquid datur, neque ipsís apparet quicquam:
vos saltem si quid quaeritis, ecbibitis et comestis.
postremo illi sunt improbi, vos nequam et gloriosae.

Ast.
Male quae in nos vis, ea omnia tibi dicis, Diniarche,
et nostram et illorum vicem.

Din.
Qui istuc?

Ast.
Rationem dicam:
quia qui alterum incusat probri, sumpse enitere oportet.
tu a nobis sapiens nihil habes, nos nequam abs ted habemus.

Din.
O Ástaphium, haud istoc modo solita es me ante appellare,
sed blande, cum illuc, quod apud vos nunc est, apud me habebam.

Ast.
Dum vivit, hominem noveris: ubi mortuost, quiescat.
te dum vivebas noveram.

Din.
An me mortuom arbitrare?

Ast.
Qui potis est, amabo, planius? qui antehac amator summus
habitu's, nunc ad amicam venis querimoniam deferre.

Din.
Vestra hercle factum iniuria, quae properavistis olim:
rapere otiose oportuit, diu ut essem incolumis vobis.

Ast.
Amator similest oppidi hostilis.

Din.
Quo argumento est?

Ast.
Quam primum expugnari potis est, tam id optimum est amicae.

Din.
Ego fateor, sed longe aliter est amicus atque amator:
certe hercle quam veterrimus, tam homini optimust amicus.

Ast.
Si vivit.

Din.
Non hercle occidi, sunt mi etiam fundi et aedis.

Ast.
Cur, obsecro, ergo ante ostium pro ignoto alienoque astas?
i intro, haud alienus tu quidem es; nam ecastor neminem hodie
mage amat corde atque animo suo, si quidem habes fundum atque aedis.

Din.
In melle sunt linguae sitae vostrae atque orationes,

facta atque corda in felle sunt sita atque acerbo aceto:
eo dicta lingua dulcia datis, córde amara facitis.

Ast.
Amantes si qui non danunt, † non didici fabulari.
non istaec, mea benignitas, decuit te fabulari,
sed istós qui cum geniis suis belligerant parcipromi.

Din.
Mala es atque eadem quae soles inlecebra.

Ast.
Vt exspectatus
peregre advenisti, quam, obsecro, cupiebat te era videre.

D.
Quid tandem?

A.
Te unum ex omnibus amat.

D.
Euge, fundi et aedis,
per tempus subvenistis. sed quid ais, Astaphium?

Ast.
Quid vis?

Din.
Estne intus nunc Phronesium?

Ast.
Vtut aliis, tibi quidem intus.

Din.
Valetne?

Ast.

Immo edepol melius iam fore spero, te ubi videbit.

Din.
Hoc nobis vitium maxumumst, cum amamus tum hoc perimus:
si illud quod volumus dicitur, palam cum mentiuntur,
verum esse insciti credimus, ne ut iusta utamur ira.

A.
Heia, haud itast res.

D.
Ain tu eam me amare?

A.
Immo unice unum.

D.
Peperisse audivi.

A.
Ah obsecro, tace, Diniarche.

D.
Quid iam?

Ast.
Horresco misera, mentio quotiens fit partionis,
ita paene nulla tibi fuit Phronesium. i intro, amabo,
vise illam. atque opperimino: iam exibit; nam lavabat.

Din.
Quid ais tu? quae numquam fuit praegnas, qui parere potuit?
nam équidem illi uterum, quod sciam, numquam extumere sensi.

Ast.
Celabat metuebatque te, ne tu sibi persuaderes,
ut abortioni operam daret puerumque ut enicaret.

Din.
Tum pol isti ést puero pater Babyloniensis miles,
quoius núnc ista adventum expetit.

Ast.
Immo ab eo ut nuntiatumst,
iam hic adfuturum aiunt eum. nondum advenisse miror.

Din.
Ibo igitur intro?

Ast.
Quippini? tam audacter quam domum ad te;
nam tu quidem edepol noster es etiam nunc, Diniarche.

Din.
Quam mox te huc recipis?

Ast.
Iam hic ero: propest, profecta quo sum.

Din.
Redi véro actutum. ego interim hic apud vos opperibor. —

ACT II.

Ast.
Hahahaé, requievi,
quia íntro abiit odiúm meum.
tandém sola súm. nunc quidém meo arbitrátu
loquár liberé quae volam ét quae lubébit.
huic hómini amanti méa era apud nos naéniam dixit domi,
nam fundi et aedis obligatae sunt ob Amoris praedium.
verum apud hunc mea era sua consilia summa eloquitur libere,
magisque ádeo ei consiliarius hic amicust quam auxiliarius.
dum fuit, dedit; nunc nihil habet: quod habebat nos habemus,
iste id habet quod nos habuimus. humanum facinus factumst.
actutum fortunae solent mutari, varia vitast:
nos divitem istum meminimus atque iste pauperes nos:
verterunt sese memoriae; stultus sit qui id miretur.
si eget, necessest nos pati: amavit, aequom ei factum est.
piaculumst miserere nos hominum rei male gerentum.
bonis ésse oportet déntibus lenám probam,
adripere ut quisquis veniat blandeque adloqui,
male corde consultare, bene lingua loqui.
meretricem sentis similem ésse condecet,
quémquem hominem attigerit, profecto ei aut malum aut damnum dare.
numquam amatoris meretricem oportet causam noscere,
quin, ubi nil det, pro infrequente eum mittat militia domum.
nec umquam erit probus quísquam amator nisi qui rei inimicust suae.
nugae sunt nisi, modo quom dederit, dare iam lubeat denuo;
is amatur hic apud nos, qui quod dedit id oblitust datum.
dum habeat, dúm amet; ubi nil habeat, alium quaestum coepiat.
aequo animo, ipse si nihil habeat, aliis quí habent, det locum.
probust amator, qui relictis rebus rem perdit suam.
at nós male agere praedicant viri solere secum,
nosque esse avaras. qui sumus? quid male nos agimus tandem?
nam ecastor numquam satis dedit suae quísquam amicae amator,
neque pol nos satis accepimus neque umquam úlla satis poposcit.

nam quando sterilis est amator ab datis,
si negat se habere quod det, soli credimus,
nec satis accipimus, satis cum quod det non habet:
semper datores novos oportet quaerere,
qui de thensauris integris demus danunt.
velút hic agrestis est adulescens, qui hic habet,
nimis pól mortalis lepidus nimisque probus dator.
sed is clam patrem etiam hac nocte illac
per hortum transiluit ad nos. eum volo convenire.
sed est huic unus servos violentissimus,
qui ubi quámque nostrarum videt prope hasce aédis adgrediri,
item ut de frumento anseres, clamore absterret abigit;
ita est agrestis. sed fores, quidquid ést futurum, feriam.
ecquis huíc tutelam ianuae gerit? ecquis intus exit?

Trvcvlentvs
Quís illic est qui tam proterve nostras aedis arietat?

Ast.
Ego sum, respice ad me.

Trvc.
Quid ego? nonne egó videor tibi?
quid tibi ad hasce accessio aedis est prope aut pultatio?

Ast.
Salve.

Trvc.
Sat mihi est tuae salutis. nil moror. non salveo?
aegrotare malim quam esse tua salute sanior.
sed volo scíre, quid debetur hic tibi nostrae domi?

Ast.
Comprime sis eiram.

Trvc.
Eam quidem hercle tu, quae solita es, comprime,

impudens, quae per ridiculum rustico suades stuprum.

Ast.
Eiram dixi: ut decepisti! dempsisti unam litteram.
nimis quidem hic truculentust.

Trvc.
Pergin male loqui, mulier, mihi?

Ast.
Quid tibi ego male dicó?

Trvc.
Quia enim me truncum lentum nominas.
nunc adeo, nisi abis actutum aut dicis quid quaeras cito,
iam hercle ego hic te, mulier, quasi sus catulos pedibus proteram.

Ast.
Rus merum hoc quidemst.

Trvc.
Pudendumst vero clurinum pecus.
advenisti huc te ostentatum, cum exornatis ossibus,
quia tibi suaso infecisti propudiosa pallulam?
an eo bella es, quia accepisti ármillas aeneas?

A.
Nunc places, cum mi inclementer dicis.

T.
Quid hoc quod te rogo?
mancupion qui accipias, gestas tecum ahenos anulos?
pignus da ni ligneae haec sunt quas habes Victorias.

Ast.
Ne attigas me.

Trvc.

Egon te tangam? íta me amabit sarculum,
ut ego me ruri amplexari mavelim patulam bovem
cumque ea noctem in stramentis pernoctare perpetem,
quam tuas centum cenatas noctes mihi dono dari.
rus tu mi opprobras? ut nancta es hominem quem pudeat probri!
sed quid ápud nostras negoti, mulier, est aedis tibi?
quid tu huc occursas, in urbem quotienscumque advenimus?

Ast.
Mulieres volo convenire vostras.

Trvc.
Quas tu mulieres
mihi narras, ubi musca nulla feminast in aedibus?

Ast.
Nullan istic mulier habitat?

Trvc.
Rus, inquam, abierunt. abi.

Ast.
Quid clamas, insane?

Trvc.
Abire hinc ni properas grandi gradu,
iam hercle ego istós fictos compositos crispos cincinnos tuos
unguentatos usque ex cerebro exvellam.

Ast.
Quanam gratia?

Trvc.
Quia ad foris nostras unguentis uncta es ausa accedere
quiaque istas buccas tam belle purpurissatas habes.

Ast.
Erubui mecastor misera propter clamorem tuom.

Trvc.
Itane? erubuisti? quasi vero corpori reliqueris
tuo potestatem coloris ulli capiendi, mala.
buccas rubrica, créta omne corpus intinxti tibi.
pessumae estis.

Ast.
Quíd est quod vobis pessumae haec male fecerint?

T.
Scio ego plus quam tu arbitrare scire me.

A.
Quid id obsecrost
quod scias?

Trvc.
Erilis noster filius apud vos Strabax
ut pereat, ut eum inliciatis in malam fraudem et probrum.

Ast.
Sanus si videare, dicam: dicis contumeliam.
nemo homo hic solet perire apud nos: res perdunt suas;
ubi res perdidere, abire hinc, si volunt, salvis licet.
ego istunc non novi adulescentem vostrum.

Trvc.
Veron serio?
quid maceria illa ait, in horto quae est, quae in noctes singulas
latere fit minor, qua ístoc ad vos damni permensust viam?

Ast.
Nil mirum (vetus est maceria) lateres si veteres ruont.

Trvc.
Ain tu vero veteres lateres ruere? numquam edepol mihi
quisquam homo mortalis posthac duarum rerum creduit,
ní ego vostra ero maiori facta denarravero.

Ast.
Estne item violentus ut tu?

Trvc.
Non enim ille meretriculis
munerandis rem coegit, verum parsimonia
duritiaque: quae nunc ad vos clam exportantur, pessumae;
ea vos estis exunguimini ebibitis. egone haec mussitem?
iam quidem hercle ibo ad forum atque haec facta narrabo seni,
neque istuc insegesti tergo coget examen mali. —

Ast.
Si ecastor hic homo sinapi victitet, non censeam
tam esse tristem posse. at pol ero benevolens visust suo.
verum ego illúm, quamquam violentust, spero inmutari pote
blandimentis, oramentis, ceteris meretriciis;
vidi equom ex indomito domitum fieri atque alias beluas.
nunc ad eram revidebo. sed eccum ódium progreditur meum.
tristis exit. haud convenit etiam hic dum Phronesium.

Diniarchvs
Piscis ego credo, qui usque dum vivont lavant,
minus diú lavare quam haec lavat Phronesium.
si proinde amentur, mulieres diu quam lavant,
omnes amantes balneatores sient.

Ast.
Non quis parumper durare opperirier?

Din.
Quin hercle lassus iam sum durando miser:
mihi quoque prae lassitudine opus est ut lavem.
sed obsecro hercle, Astaphium, i intro ac nuntia
me adesse, ut properet suade, iam ut satis laverit.

A.
Licet.

D.
Audin etiam?

A.
Quid vis?

D.
Di me perduint,
qui te revocavi. non tibi dicebam ‘i’ modo?

Ast.
Quidnam revocabas? improbu’s nihilique homo:
tute tibi mille passum peperisti moram. —

Din.
Sed quid haec hic autem tam diu ante aedis stetit?
nescio quem praestolata est; credo, militem.
illum student iam; quasi volturii triduo
prius praédivinant, quo die esuri sient:
illum inhiant omnes, illi est animus omnibus;
me nemo magis respiciet, ubi is est huc venerit,
quasi abhinc ducentos annos fuerim mortuos.
ut rem servare suave est! vae misero mihi,
post factum flector, qui antepartum perdidi.
verum nunc si qua mi obtigerit hereditas
magna atque luculenta, nunc postquam scio
dulce atque amarum quid sit ex pecunia,
ita ego íllam edepol servem itaque parce victitem,
ut — nulla faxim cis dies paucos siet;
ego istós, qui nunc me culpant, confutaverim.
sed aestuosas sentio aperiri fores,
quae obsorbent quidquid venit intra pessulos.

Phronesivm
Num tibi nam, amabo, ianua est mordax mea,
quo intro ire metuas, mea voluptas?

Din.

Ver vide,
ut tota floret, ut olet, ut nitide nitet.

Phron.
Quid tam inficetu's, Lemno adveniens qui tuae
non des amicae, Diniarche, savium?

Din.
Vah, vapulo hercle ego nunc, atque adeo male.

Phron.
Quo te avortisti?

Din.
Salva sis, Phronesium.

Phron.
Salve. hicine hodie cenas, salvos cum advenis?

Din.
Promisi.

Phron.
Vbi cenabis?

Din.
Vbi tu iusseris.

Phron.
Hic me lubente facies.

Din.
Edepol me magis.
nempe tú eris hodie mecum, mea Phronesium?

Phron.
Velim, si fieri possit.

Din.

Cedo soleas mihi,
properate, auferte mensam.

Phron.
Amabo, sanun es?

Din.
Non edepol bibere possum iam, ita animo malest.

Phron.
Mane, aliquid fiet, né abi.

Din.
Ah, aspersisti aquam.
iam rediit animus. deme soleas, cedo bibam.

Phron.
Idem es mecastor qui soles. sed dic mihi,
benene ambulatumst?

Din.
Huc quidem hercle ad te bene,
quia tui videndi copia est.

Phron.
Complectere.

Din.
Lubens. heia, hoc est melle dulci dulcius.
hoc tuis fortunis, Iuppiter, praestant meae.

Phron.
Dan savium?

Din.
Immo vel decem.

Phron.

Em istoc pauper es:
semper plus pollicere quam ego abs te postulo.

Din.
Vtinam a principio reí item parsisses meae
ut nunc reparcis saviis.

Phron.
Si quid tibi
compendi facere possim, factum edepol velim.

Din.
Iam lauta es?

Phron.
Iam pol mihi quidem atque oculis meis.
num tibi sordere videor?

Din.
Non pol mihi quidem;
verum tempestas, memini, quondam etiam fuit,
cum inter nos sordebamus alter de altero.
sed quid ego facinus audivi adveniens tuom,
quod tu hic me absente novi negoti gesseris?

Phron.
Quid id est?

Din.
Primumdum, cum tu es aucta liberis
cumque bene provenisti salva, gaudeo.

Phron.
Concedite hinc vos intro atque operite ostium.
tu nunc superstes solus sermoni meo es.
tibi mea consilia summa semper credidi.
equidem neque peperi puerum neque praegnas fui;
verum adsimulavi me esse praegnatem: haud nego.

Din.
Quem propter, o mea vita?

Phron.
Propter militem
Babyloniensem, qui quasi uxorem sibi
me habebat anno, dum hic fuit.

Din.
Ego senseram.
sed quid istuc? cui rei te adsimulare retulit?

Phron.
Vt esset aliquis laqueus et redimiculum,
reversionem ut ad me faceret denuo.
nunc huc remisit nuper ad me epistulam,
sese experturum quanti sese penderem:
si quod peperissem id non necarem ac tollerem,
bona sua med habiturum omnia esse.

Din.
Ausculto lubens.
quid denique agitis?

Phron.
Mater ancillas iubet,
quoniam iam decimus mensis adventat prope,
aliam aliorsum ire, praemandare et quaerere
puerum aut puellam, qui supponatur mihi.
quid multa verba faciam? tonstricem Suram
novisti nostram, quae mercedem sese habet?†

Din.
Novi.

Phron.
Haec ut opera circumit, per familias,
puerum vestigat; clanculum ad me detulit,

datum sibi esse dixit.

Din.
O mercis malae.
eum núnc non illa peperit, quae peperit prior,
sed tu posterior.

Phron.
Ordine omnem rem tenes.
nunc ut praemisit nuntium miles mihi,
non multo post hic aderit.

Din.
Nunc tu te interim
quasi pro puerpera hic procuras?

Phron.
Quippini,
ubi sine labore res geri pulcre potest?
ad suom quemque aequom est quaestum ésse callidum.

Din.
Quid me futurum est, quando miles venerit?
relictusne abs te vivam?

Phron.
Vbi illud quod volo
habebo ab illo, facile inveniam quo modo
divortium et discordiam inter nos parem:
post id ego totum tecum, mea voluptas, usque ero
assiduo.

Din.
Immo hercle vero accubuo mavelim.

Phron.
quin Dis hodie sacruficare pro puero volo,
quinto die quod fieri oportet.

Din.
Censeo.

Phron.
Non audes aliquid mihi dare munusculum?

Din.
Lucrum hercle videor facere mi, voluptas mea,
ubi quippiam me poscis.

Phron.
At ego, ubi abstuli.

Din.
Iam faxo hic aderit. servolum huc mittam meum.

Phron.
Sic facito.

Din.
Quidquid attulerit, boni consulas.

Phron.
Ecastor munus te curaturum scio,
ut cuius me nón paeniteat mittatur mihi.

Din.
Num quippiam aliud me vis?

Phron.
Vt quando otium
tibi sit ad me revisas, et valeas. —

Din.
Vale.

pro di immortales, non amantis mulieris,
sed sociae únanimantis, fidentis fuit

officium facere quod modo haec fecit mihi,
suppositionem pueri quae mihi credidit,
germanae quod sorori non credit soror.
ostendit sese iam mihi medullitus:
scio mi ínfidelem numquam, dum vivat, fore.
egone illam ut non amem? egone illi ut non bene velim?
me potius non amabo quam huic desit amor.
ego istí non munus mittam? iam † modo ex hoc loco
iubebo ad istam quinque deferri minas,
praeterea obsonari una dumtaxat mina.
multo illi potius bene erit quae bene volt mihi,
quam mihi, qui mihimet omnia facio mala. —

Phronesivm

Puero ísti date mammam. út miserae
matrés sollicitaeque éx animo sumus crúciamurque!
edepól commentum mále, cumque eam rem in córde agito,
nimió — minus perhibemúr malae quam sumus íngenio.
egó prima dé me, domó docta, díco.
quantaést cura in animo, quantum corde capio
dolorem — dolus ne occidat morte pueri:
mater dicta quod sum, eo magis studeo vitae;
quae ausa hunc sum, tantundem dolum nunc adgrediar.
lucri causa avara probrum sum exsecuta,
alienos dolores mihi supposivi;
sed nullam rem oportet dolose adgrediri,
nisi astu totam accurateque exsequare.
vosmet iam videtis, ut ornata incedo:
puerperio ego nunc med esse aegram adsimulo.
mále quod mulier fácere incepit, nísi id efficere pérpetrat,
id illi morbo, id illi seniost, ea illi miserae miseriast;
bene si facere incepit, eius rei nimis cito odium percipit.
nimis quam paucae sunt defessae, male quae facere occeperunt,
nimisque paucae efficiunt, si quid facere occeperunt bene:
mulieri nimio male facere levius onus est quam bene.
ego quod mala sum, matris opera mala sum et meapte malitia,
quae me gravidam esse adsimulavi militi Babylonio:

eam nunc malitiam accuratam miles inveniat volo.
is hic haud multo post, credo, aderit; nunc prius praecaveo sciens
sumque ornata ita ut aegra videar, quasi puerperio cubem.
date mi huc stactam atque ignem in aram, ut venerem Lucinam meam.
hic apponite atque abite ab oculis. eho, Pithecium,
face ut accumbam, accede, adiuta. em sic decet puerperam.
soleas mihi deduce, pallium inice in me huc, Archilis.
ubi es, Astaphium? fer huc verbenam mi intus et bellaria.
date aquam manibus. nunc ecastor adveniat miles velim.

Stratophanes
Ne expectetis, spectatores, meas pugnas dum praedicem:
manibus duella praedicare soleo, haud in sermonibus.
scio ego multos memoravisse milites mendacium:
et Homeronida et postilla mille memorari pote,
qui et convicti et condemnati falsis de pugnis sient.
non laudandust cui plus credit qui audit quam ille qui videt:
non placet quem illi plus laudant qui audiunt, quam qui vident.
pluris est oculatus testis unus quam auriti decem;
qui audiunt audita dicunt, qui vident plane sciunt.
non placet quem scurrae laudant, manipularis mussitant,
neque illi quorum lingua gladiorum aciem praestringit domi.
strenui nimio plus prosunt populo quam arguti et cati:
facile sibi facunditatem virtus argutam invenit,
sine virtute argutum civem mihi habeam pro praefica,
quae alios conlaudat, eapse sese vero non potest.
nunc ad amicam decimo mense post Athenas Atticas
viso, quam gravidam hic reliqui meo compressu, quid ea agat.

Phron.
Vide quis loquitur tam propinque.

Astaphivm
Miles, mea Phronesium,
tibi adest Stratophanes. nunc tibi opust, aegram ut te adsimules.

Ph.
Tace.
cuí adhuc ego tam mala eram monetrix, me maleficio vinceres?

St.
Peperit mulier, ut ego opinor.

A.
Vin adeam ad hominem?

Ph.
Volo.

S.
Euge, Astaphium eccam it mi advorsum.

A.
Salve ecastor, Stratophanes.
venire salvom te —

Strat.
Scio. sed peperitne, ópsecro, Phronesium?

Ast.
Peperit puerum nimium lepidum.

Strat.
Ehem, ecquid mei similest?

Ast.
Rogas?
quin ubí natust machaeram et clupeum poscebat sibi?

Strat.
Meus est, scio iam de argumentis.

Ast.
Nimium tuí similest.

Strat.
Papae,
iam magnust? iamne iit ad legionem? ecquae spolia rettulit?

Ast.
Heia, nudius quintus natus ille quidem est.

Strat.
Quid postea?
inter tot dies quidem hercle iam aliquid actum oportuit.
quid illi ex utero exitiost prius quam poterat ire in proelium?

Ast.
Consequere atque illam saluta et gratulare illi.

Strat.
Sequor.

Phron.
Vbi illa, óbsecro, est quae me hic reliquit, eapse abiit? ubist?

A.
Adsum, adduco tibi exoptatum Stratophanem.

Ph.
Vbi is est, obsecro?

Strat.
Mars peregre adveniens salutat Nerienem uxorem suam.
quom tu recte provenisti quomque es aucta liberis,
gratulor, quom mihi tibique magnum peperisti decus.

Phron.
Salve, qui me interfecisti paene vita et lumine
quique mihi magni doloris per voluptatem tuam
condidisti in corpus, quo nunc etiam morbo misera sum.

Strat.

Heia, haud ab re, mea voluptas, tibi istic obvenit labos:
filium peperisti, qui aedis spoliis opplebit tuas.

Phron.
Multo ecastor magis oppletis tritici ópust granariis,
ne, ille prius quam spolia capiat, hic nos extinxit fames.

Strat.
Habe bonum animum.

Phron.
Savium pete hinc sis. ah, nequeo caput
tollere, ita dolet itaque ego † medulo, neque etiam queo
pedibus mea sponte ambulare.

Strat.
Si hercle me ex medio mari
savium petere tuom iubeas, petere hau pigeat me, mel meum.
id ita esse experta es: nunc experiere, mea Phronesium,
me te amare. adduxi ancillas tibi eccas ex Suria duas,
is te dono. adduce hoc tu istas. sed istae reginae domi
suae fuerunt ambae, earum patriam ego excidi manu.
his te dono.

Phron.
Paenitetne te quot ancillas alam,
quin examen super adducas, quae mihi comedint cibum?

St.
Hoc quidem herclést ingratum donum. cedo tu mi istam purpuram.
mea voluptas, attuli eccam pallulam ex Phrygia tibi.
tene tibi.

Phron.
Hocine mi ob labores tantos tantillum dari?

Strat.
Perii hercle ego miser. iam mi auro contra constat filius:

†etiam num mali pendit addit purpuram. ex Arabia tibi
attuli tus, Ponto amomum. tene tibi, voluptas mea.

Phron.
Accipe hoc, Astaphium, abduce hasce hinc e conspectu Suras.

S.
Ecquid amas me?

Ph.
Nihil ecastor, neque meres.

S.
Nilne huic sat est?
ne bonum verbum quidem unum dixit. viginti minis
venire illaec posse credo dona quae ei dono dedi.
vehementer nunc mi est irata, sentio atque intellego;
verum abibo. quid ais? nunc tu num nevis mé, voluptas mea,
quo vocatus sum ire ad cenam? mox huc cubitum venero.
quid taces? planissume edepol perii. sed quid illuc novi est?
quis hic homost, qui ducit pompam tantam? certumst quo ferant
observare. huic credo fertur. verum iam scibo magis.

Cyamvs
Ite íte hac simúl, mulierí damnigéruli,
forás egerónes, bonórum exagógae.
satin, sí quis amat, nequit quín nihili sit atque ímprobis se artibus
éxpoliat?
nam hóc qui sciám, ne quis íd quaerat éx me,
domist qui facit improba facta amator,
qui bona sua pro stercore habet, foras iubet ferri, metuit
ne apud nos non mundissimum sit;
puras sibi esse volt aedis: domi quidquid habet, eicitur ἔξω.
quándoquidem ipsus pérditum se it, sécreto hercle equidem éum
adiutabo,
néque mea quidem ópera umquam hilo mínus propere quam póte
peribit.

nám iam de hoc obsónio de mína deminui uná modo
quínque nummos: míhi detraxi pártem Herculáneam.
nam hoc adsimile est quasi de fluvio quí aquam derivat sibi:
nisi derivetur, tamen omnis ea aqua ábeat in mare;
nam hoc in mare abit misereque perit sine bona omni gratia.
haec cúm video fierí, suffuror súppilo,
de praéda praedam cápio.
meretrícem ego item esse reór, mare ut est:
quod dés devorát nec datís umquam abúndat.
hoc sáltem: rem sérvat nec úlli ubi sit appáret:
dés quantumvis, nusquam apparet, neque datori neque acceptrici.
velut haéc meretrix meum erúm miserum sua blánditia
paene íntulit in paupériem:
privábit bonís, luce, honóre atque amícis.
áttat, eccam adest propinque. credo audisse haec me loqui.
pallida est, ut peperit puerum. ádloquar quasi nesciam.
iubeo vos salvere.

Phron.
Noster Cyame, quid agis? ut vales?

Cyam.
Valeo, et venio ad minus valentem, et melius qui valeat fero.
erus meús, ocellus tuos, ád te ferre me haec iussit tibi
dona quae vides íllos ferre, et has quinque argenti minas.

Phron.
Pol haúd perit quod illum tántum amo.

Cyam.
Iússit oráre, ut haec gráta haberés tibi.

Ph.
Grata ácceptaque ecastór habeo. iube vása auferri intro, i Cyame.

Ast.
Écquid audítis, haec quaé iam Cyamo ímperat?

Cyam.
Vása nolo aúferant: désiccarí iube.

A.
Ímpudens mecástor, Cyame, es.

C.
Égone?

A.
Tu.

C.
Boná fide?
tune ais me ímpudentem esse, ipsa quae sis stabulum flagiti?

Phron.
Díc, amabó te, ubi est Díniarchús?

Cyam.
Domi.

Phron.
Díc ob haec dóna, quae ad mé hodie míserit,
me íllum amare plurimum ómnium hominum merito,
méque honorem ílli habere ómnium máxumum,
átque ut huc véniat ad me óbsecrare.

Cyam.
Ílicet.
séd quisnam illic homóst, qui ipsus se cómest, tristis, oculís malis?
ánimo hercle homost suo miser,
quísquis est.

Phron.
Dignúst mecastor. néquam est. non nosti, óbsecro,
militem, hic apud me quí erat? huius pater pueri illic est.
úsque abegi, áspuli, iússi abiret; tamen

mánsit: auscultát, observat quám rem agam.

C.
Novi hóminem nihili.
íllicinest?

Phron.
Íllic est.

Cyam.
Me íntuetúr gemens;
traxit ex intimo ventre suspiritum.
hoc vide, dentibus frendit, icit femur;
num obsecro nam hariolust, qui ipsus se verberat?

S.
Nunc égo meos animos víolentos meamque íram ex pectore iám promam.
loquere: únde es? cuius es? cúr ausu's mi inclémenter dicére?

C.
Lubitumst.
Strat.
Istúcine mihi respóndes?

Cyam.
Hoc. non égo te flocci fácio.

S.
Quid tú? cur ausa es álium te dicére amare hominem?

Ph.
Lúbitumst.

Strat.
Ain tándem? istuc primum éxperiar. tun tántilli doní causa, holerum átque escarum et póscarum, moechúm malacum, cincínnatum,

umbráticulum, tympánotribam amás, hominem non nauci?

C.
Quae haéc res?
meone ero tu, ímprobe tu, male dícere ero audés, fons viti et peiúri?

S.
Verbum únum adde istoc: iam hércle ego te hic hac óffatim confíciam.

C.
Tangé modo, iám ego te hic agnum faciam ét medium distrúncabo. si tu ín legione béllator clues, át ego in culina clúeo.

Ph.
Si aequóm facias, advéntores meos nón incuses, quórum
mihi dóna accepta et gráta habeo, tuaque íngrata, quae abs te áccepi.

S.
Tum pól ego et donis prívatus sum et périi.

Ph.
Plane istúc est.

Cyam.
Quíd nunc ergo hic ódiosu's, confessus omnino reus?

S.
Périi hercle hodie, nísi hunc a te abigo.

C.
Áccede huc modo, adi húc modo.

S.
Étiam, scelus virí, minitare? quém ego offatim iam iam iam cóncipilabo.

quíd tibi huc ventio est? quíd tibi hanc áditio est?
quid tibi hanc notio est, inquam, amicam meam?
emoriere ocius, ni manu viceris.

Cyam.
Quid, manu vicerim?

Strat.
Fac quod iussi, mane.
iam égo te hic offatím conficiam, síc occidi te óptumum est.

Cyam.
Cáptiost: istám machaeram lóngiorem habes quam haéc est.
séd verum me sine dum petere: siquidem belligerandum est tecum,
adero, dum ego tecum, bellator, arbitrum aequom ceperim.
sed ego cesso hinc me amoliri, ventre dum salvo licet? —

Phron.
Datin sóleas? atque me intro actutum ducite,
nam mihi de vento miserae condoluit caput. —

Strat.
Quid mihi futurum est, cui duae ancillae dolent,
quibus té donavi? iamne abiisti? em sic datur.
quo pacto excludi, quaeso, potui planius,
quam exclusus nunc sum? púlcre ludificor. sine.
quantillo mi opere nunc persuaderi potest,
ut ego his suffringam talos totis aedibus.
num quippiam tam immutat mores mulierum?
postquam filiolum peperit, animos sustulit.
nunc quasi mi dicat: nec te iubeo neque voto
intro ire in aedis. at ego nolo, non eo.
ego faxo dicat me in diebus pauculis
crudum virum esse. sequere me hac. verbum sat est. —

ACT III.

Strabax
Rus mane dudum hinc ire me iussit pater,
ut bubus glandem prandio depromerem.
post illoc quam veni, advenit, si dis placet,
ad villam argentum meo qui debebat patri,
qui ovis Tarentínas erat mercatus de patre.
quaerit patrem. dico esse in urbe. interrogo,
quid eum velit ...
homo cruminam sibi de collo detrahit,
minas viginti mihi dat. accipio libens,
condo in cruminam. ille abit. ego propere minas
ovis ín crumina hác in urbem detuli.
fuít edepol Mars meo periratus patri,
nam oves illius hau longe absunt a lupis.
nunc ego istos mundulos urbanos amasios
hoc ictu exponam atque omnis eiciam foras.
eradicarest certum cumprimis patrem,
post id locorum matrem. nunc hoc deferam
argentum ad hanc, quam mage amo quam matrem meam.
tat, ecquis intust? ecquis hoc aperit ostium?

Astaphivm
Quid istúc? alienun es, amabo, mi Strabax,
qui non extemplo intro ieris?

Strab.
Anne oportuit?

Ast.
Ita te quidem, qui es familiaris.

Strab.
Ibitur,
ne me morari censeas. —

Ast.
Lepide facis.

Trvcvlentvs
Mirum videtur, rure erilem filium
Strabacem non rediisse; nisi si clanculum
conlapsus est hic in corruptelam suam.

Ast.
Iam pol illic inclamabit me si aspexerit.

Trvc.
Nimio minus saévos iam sum, Astaphium, quam fui,
iam non ego sum truculentus, noli metuere.

Ast.
Quid vis? quid metuam? tuam expecto truculentiam.

Trvc.
Dic impera mihi quid libet quo vis modo.
novos ómnis mores habeo, veteres perdidi.
vel amare possum vel iam scortum ducere.

Ast.
Lepide mecastor nuntias. sed dic mihi,
haben —

Trvc.
Marsipum te fortasse dicere?

Ast.
Intellexisti lepide quid ego dicerem.

Strat.
Heus tu, iam postquam in urbem crebro commeo,
dicax sum factus. iam sum caullator probus.

Ast.

Quid id est, amabo? ístaec ridicularia,
cavillátiones, vis opinor dicere?

Strat.
Istud pauxillum differt a cavillibus.

Ast.
Sequere intro me, amabo, mea voluptas.

Strat.
Tene hoc tibi:
rabonem habeto, ut mecum hanc noctem sies.

Ast.
Perii, rabonem? quam esse dicam hanc beluam?
quin tu arrabonem dicis?

Strat.
'A' facio lucri,
ut Praenestinis conia est ciconia.

Ast.
Sequere, obsecro.

Strat.
Strabacem hic opperiar modo,
si rure veniat.

Ast.
Is quidem hic ápud nos est Strabax,
modo rure venit.

Strat.
Priusne quam ad matrem suam?
eu edepol hominem nihili.

Ast.
Iamne autem ut soles?

Strat.
Iamne nihil dico?

Ast.
I intro, amabo, cedo manum.

Strat.
Tene. in tabernam ducor devorsoriam,
ubi male accipiar mea mihi pecunia. —

ACT IV.

Diniarchvs
Néque gnatust neque progignetur neque potest reperirier
cuí ego nunc aut dictum aut factum melius quam Veneri velim.
di magni, ... ut ego laetus sum et laetitia differor.
ita ad me magna nuntiavit Cyamus hodie gaudia:
mea dona deamata acceptaque habita esse apud Phronesium;
quom hoc iam volup est, tum illuc nimium magnae mellinae mihi,
militis odiosa ingrataque habita. totus gaudeo.
mea pila est: si repudiatur miles, mulier mecum erit.
salvos sum, quia pereo; si non peream, plane perierim.
nunc speculabor quid ibi agatur, quis eat intro, qui foras
veniat; procul hinc observabo, meis quid fortunis fuat.
quia nihil habeo unum animos movi mi hic omnia agam precario†

Astaphivm
Lepide éfficiam meum ego ófficium: vide intús modo ut tu tuom item éfficias.
ama, íd quod decét, rem tuam: ístum exináni.
nunc dum isti lubet, dum habet, tempus ei rei † secundas
prome venustatem amanti tuam, ut gaudeat cum perdis.
ego híc interím restitáns praesidébo,
istíc dum sic fáciat domum ad te exagógam;
nec quémquam interim ístoc ad vós, qui sit ódio,
intró mittam: tú perge, ut lúbet, ludo in ístoc.

Din.
Quis ístest, Astaphium, índica, qui périt?

Ast.
Amabo, hicín tu eras?

Din.
Moléstusne súm?

Ast.

Nunc magís quam fuísti,
nam si quid nobis usust nobis molestus†
sed óbsecro, da mi óperam, ut narrem quaé volo.

Din.
Nám quid est? núm mea réfert?

Ast.
Non mússito.
intús bolos quós dat!

Din.
Quíd? amator novos quíspiam?

Ast.
Íntegrum et plénum adortást thensaurúm.

Din.
Quis est?

Ast.
Éloquar, sed tú taceto. nóstin tu hunc Strabácem?

Din.
Quidni?

Ast.
Sólus summam núnc habet hic ápud nos, nunc is est fúndus nobis.
animó bono male rem gerit.

Din.
Perit hercle, ego idem ...
bona pérdidi, mala repperi, factus sum extimus a vobis.

Ast.
Stúltus es, qui facta infecta facere verbis postules.
Thetis quoque etiam lamentando pausam fecit filio.

Din.
Non ego nunc intro ad vos mittar?

Ast.
Quidum quam miles magis?

Din.
Quia enim plus dedi.

Ast.
Plus enim es íntro missus, quom dabas:
sine vicissim qui dant operam ob illud quod dant operis utier.
litteras didicisti: quando scis, sine alios discere.

Din.
Discant, dum mihi commentari liceat, ni oblitus siem.

Ast.
Quid erit interea magistrae, dum tu commentabere?
volt interim illa itidem commentari.

D.
Quid?

A.
Rem accipere identidem.

Din.
Dedi equidem hodie: iussi ei quinque argenti deferri minas,
praeterea una mína obsonatum.

Ast.
Idem istuc delatum scio.
de eo nunc bene sunt tua virtute.

Din.
Ei, meane ut inimici mei
bona istic caedent? mortuom hercle me quam ut id pátiar mavelim.

Ast.
†Stultus quid est aperire.

Din.
Quid iam?

Ast.
Quia pol mavelim
mihi inimicos invidere, quam med inimicis meis;
nam invidere alii bene esse, tibi male esse, miseria est.
qui invident egent; illis quibus invidetur, i rem habent.

Din.
Non mei licet obsoni me participem fieri?

Ast.
Si volebas participari, auferres dimidium domum.
nám item ut Acherunti hic apud nos ratio accepti scribitur:
intro accipitur; quando acceptumst, non potest ferri foras.
bene vale.

D.
Resiste.

A.
Omitte.

D.
A, mitte intro.

A.
Ad te quidem.

Din.
Immo istoc ad vos volo ire.

Ast.
Non potest, nimium petis.

Din.
Experiri sine —

Ast.
Immo opperire. vis est experirier.

Din.
Dic me adesse.

Ast.
Abi, occupatast. res itast, ne frustra sis.

D.
Redin an non redis?

A.
Vocat me quae in me potest plus quam potes.

D.
Vno verbo —

A.
Eloquere.

D.
Mittin me intro?

A.
Mendax es, abi.
unum aiebas, tria iam dixti verba, atque ea mendacia. —

Din.
Abiit intro, exclusit. egon ut haec mihi patiar fieri?
iam hercle egó tibi, inlecebra, ludos faciam clamore in via,
quae adversum legem accepisti a plurimis pecuniam;
iam hercle apud nóvos omnis magistrátus faxo erit nomen tuom,
post id égo te manum iníciam quadrupuli, venefica,
suppostrix puerum. égo edepol iam tua probra aperibo omnia.

nihil me prohibet, perdidi omne quod fuit: fio impudens,
nec mi adeost tantillum pensi iam, quos capiam calceos.
sed quid ego hic clamo? quid si me iubeat intromittier?
conceptis me non facturum verbis iurem, si velit.
nugae sunt. si stimulos pugnis caedis, manibus plus dolet.
de nihilo nihil est irasci, quae te non flocci facit.
sed quid hoc ést? pro di immortales, Calliclem video senem,
meus qui adfinis fuit, ancillas duas constrictas ducere,
alteram tonstricem húius, alteram ancillam suam.
pertimui: postquam una cura cor meum movit modo,
timeo ne male facta antiqua mea sint inventa omnia.

Callicles
Egon tibi male dícam tibique aut male velim? ut animus meust,
propemodum expertae estis, quam ego sim mitis tranquillusque homo.
rogitavi ego vos verberatas ambas pendentis simul;
commemini, quo quicque pacto sitis confessae scio;
hic nunc volo scire eodem pacton sine malo fateamini.
quamquam vos colubrino ingenio ambae estis, edico prius,
ne duplicis habeatis linguas, ne ego bilinguis vos necem,
nisi si ad tintinnaculos voltis vos educi viros.

Ancilla
Vis subigit verum fateri, ita lora laedunt bracchia.

Call.

At si verum mi eritis fassae, vinclis exsolvemini.

Din.
Etiamnum quid sit negoti, falsus incertusque sum,
nisi quia timeo tamen, egomet quia quod peccavi scio.

Call.

Omnium primum diversae state — em sic, istuc volo;
neve inter vos significetis, ego ero paries. loquere tu.

Anc.
Quid loquar?

Call.

Quid puero factumst, mea quem peperit filia,
meo nepote? capita rerum ede expedite.

Anc.
Istae dedi.

Call.

Iam tace. accepistin puerum tú ab hac?

Tonstrix

Accepi.
Call.

Tace.
nil moror praeterea. satis es fassa.

Ton.
Infitias non eo.

Call.

Iam livorem verbo scapulis istoc concinnas tuis.
conveniunt adhuc utriusque verba.

Din.
Vae misero mihi,
mea nunc facinora aperiuntur, clam quae speravi fore.

C.
Loquere tu. qui dare te huic puerum iussit?

Anc.

Era maior mea.

Call.

Quid tu, cur eum accepisti?

Ton.
Era med oravit minor,
puer ut sibi ferretur eaque ut celarentur omnia.

C.
Loquere tu. quid eo fecisti puero?

T.
Ad meam eram detuli.

Call.

Quid eo puero tua era fecit?

Ton.
Erae meae extemplo dedit.

C.
Quoi, malum, erae?

A.
Duae sunt istae.

C.
Cave tu nisi quod te rogo.
ex te exquiro.

Ton.
Mater, inquam, filiae dono dedit.

C.
Plus quam dudum inqua loquere.

T.
Plus tu rogitas.

C.
Responde ocius:
quid illa cui donatus puer est?

T.
Supposivit.

C.
Cui?

T.
Sibi.
Call.

Pro filiolon?

T.
Pro filiolo.

C.
Di, obsecro vostram fidem,
ut facilius alia quam alia eundem puerum unum parit:
haec labore alieno puerum peperit sine doloribus.
puer quidem beatust: matres duás habet et avias duas:
iam metuo, patres quot fuerint. vide sis facinus muliebre.

Anc.
Magis pol haec malitia pertinét ad viros quam ad mulieres:
vir illam, non mulier praegnatem fecit.

Call.

Idem ego istuc scio.
tu bona ei custos fuisti.

Anc.
Plus potest qui plus valet.
vir erat, plus valebat: vicit, quod petebat abstulit.

Call.

Et tibi quidem hercle ídem attulit magnum malum.

Anc.
Idem istuc ipsa, etsi tu taceas, reapse experta intellego.

Call.

Numquam te facere hodie quivi, ut is quis esset diceres.

Anc.
Tacui adhuc: nunc non tacebo, quando adest nec se indicat.

Din.
Lapideus sum, commovere me miser non audeo.
res palam omnis est, meo illic nunc sunt capiti comitia.
meum illuc facinus, mea stultitia est. timeo, quam mox nominer.

Call.

Loquere, filiam meam quis integram stupraverit.

Anc.
Video ego té, propter male facta qui es patronus parieti.

Din.
Neque vivos neque mortuos sum, neque quid nunc faciam scio,
neque ut hinc abeam neque ut hunc adeam scio, timore torpeo.

Call.

Dicin an non?

Anc.

Diniarchus, quoi illam prius desponderas.

C.
Vbi is homost quem dicis?

D.
Adsum, Callicles. per tua obsecro
genua te, ut istuc insipienter factum sapienter feras,
mihique ignoscas quod animi impos vini vitio fecerim.

Call.

Non placet qui in mutum culpam confert, qui non quit loqui.
nam vinum si fabulari possit, se defenderet.
non vinum viris moderari, sed viri vino solent,
qui quidem probi sunt; verum qui improbust si quasi bibit
sive adeo caret temeto, tamen ab ingenio improbust.

Din.
Scio equidem quae nolo multa mi audienda ob noxiam.
ego tibi me obnoxium esse fateor culpae compotem.

Anc.
Callicles, vide in quaéstione ne facias iniuriam:
reus solutus causam dicit, testis vinctos attines.

Call.

Solvite istas. agite, abite tu domum et tu autem domum.
eloquere haec erae tu: puerum reddat, si quis eum petat.
eamus tu in ius.

Din.
Quid vis in ius me ire? tu es praetor mihi.
verum te obsecro, ut tuam gnatam des mi uxorem, Callicles.

Call.

Eundem pol te iudicasse qui admisti eam rem intellego.
nam haud mansisti, dum ego darem illam: tute sumpsisti tibi.
nunc habeas ut nactu's. verum hoc ego te multabo bolo:
sex talenta magna dotis demam pro ista inscitia.

Din.
Bene agis mecum.

Call.

Filium istinc tuom te meliust repetere.
ceterum uxorem quam primum potest abduce ex aedibus.
ego abeo. iam illi remittam nuntium adfini meo,
dicam ut aliam condicionem filio inveniat suo. —

Din.
At ego ab hac puerum reposcam, ne mox infitias eat;
nihil est, nám eapse ultro ut factumst fecit omnem rem palam.
sed nimium pol opportune éccam eapse egreditur foras.
ne ista stimulum longum habet, quae usque illinc cor pungit meum.

Phronesivm
Blitea et luteast meretrix nisi quae sapit in vino ad rem suam;
si alia membra vino madeant, cor sit saltem sobrium.
nam mihi dividiaest, in tonstricem meam sic convictam male.
ea dixit, eum Diniarchi puerum inventum filium.
ubi id audivi, quám ego propere potui egressa huc sum foras.

Din.
Lubet adire quam penes est mea omnis res et liberi.

Phron.
Video eccum qui suis tutorem med optavit liberis.

Din.
Mulier, ad te sum profectus.

Ph.

Quid agitur, voluptas mea?

Din.
Non voluptas, aufer nugas, nil ego nunc de istac re ago.

Phron.
Scio mecastor quid velis ét quid postules et quid petas:
me videre vis, et me te a me ire postulas, puerum petis.

Din.
Di immortales, ut planiloqua est, paucis ut rem ipsam attigit.

Phron.
Scio equidem sponsam tibi esse et filium ex sponsa tua
et tibi uxorem ducendam, iam esse alibi iám animum tuom
et me quasi pro derelicta: scio, abituru's. sed tamen
cogitato, mus pusillus quam sit sapiens bestia,
aetatem qui non cubili uni umquam committit suam,
quin, si unum obsideatur, aliud iam perfugium elegerit.

Din.
Otium ubi erit, de istis rebus tum amplius tecum loquar.
nunc puerum redde.

Phron.
Immo amabo ut hos dies aliquos sinas
eum esse apud me.

Din.
Minime.

Phron.
Amabo.

Din.
Quid opus est?

Phron.

In rem meam est.
triduom hoc saltem, dum áliquo miles circumducitur,
sine me habere: siquidem habebo, tibi quoque etiam proderit;
si auferes puerum, a milite omnis tum mihi spes animam efflaverit.

Din.
Factum cupio, nam nefacere si velim, non est locus;
nunc puero utere et procura, quando quor cures habes.

Ph.
Multum amo te ób istam rem mecastor. ubi domi metues malum,
fugito huc ad me: saltem amicus mi esto † manubinarius.

D.
Bene vale, Phronesium.

Ph.
An non etiam tuom oculum vocas?

Din.
Id quoque interim † futatim nomen commemorabitur.
numquid vis?

Ph.
Fac valeas.

D.
Operae ubi mi erit, ad te venero. —

Phron.
Ille quidem hinc abiit, abscessit. dicere hic quidvis licet.
verum est verbum quod memoratur: ubi amici ibidem sunt opes.
propter hunc spes etiamst hodie † tantum iri militem;
quém ego ecastor mage amo quam me, dum id quod cupio inde aufero.
quae cum multum abstulimus, hau multum eius apparet quod datum est:
ita sunt gloriae meretricum.

Astaphivm
Áha tace.

Phron.
Quid est, obsecro?

A.
Pater adest pueri.

Ph.
Sine eumpse adire huc. sine, si is est modo.

A.
Ipsus est.

Ph.
Sine eumpse adire, ut cupit, ad me.

A.
Rectam tenet.

Phron.
Ne istum ecastor hodie aspiciam confectum fallaciis.

ACT V.

Stratophanes
Ego minam auri fero supplicium † damnis ad amicam meam:
ut illud acceptum sit, prius quod perdidi, hoc addam insuper.
sed quid video? eram atque ancillam ante aedis. adeundae haec mihi.
quid hic vos agitis?

Ph.
Ne me appella quaeso.

S.
Aha nimium saeviter.

Ph.
Potine ut mihi molestus ne sis?

St.
Ecquid, Astaphium, litiumst?

A.
Merito ecastor tibi succenset.

Ph.
Egon, atque isti etiam parum
male volo.

Strat.
Ego, mea voluptas, si quid peccavi prius,
supplicium ad te hanc mínam fero auri. si minus crédis, respice.

Phron.
Manus vetat prius quám penes sese habeat quicquam credere.
puero opust cibo, opus est matri autem, opus est quae puerum lavit,
opus nutrici, lact ut habeat, veteris vini largiter
ut dies noctesque potet, ópust ligno, opust carbonibus,

fasciis opus est, pulvinis, cunis, incunabulis,
oleo opust, opus est farina, porro opus est totum diem:
numquam hoc uno die efficiatur opus, quin opus semper siet;
non enim póssunt militares pueri † etauio exducier.

Strat.
Respice ergo, áccipe hoc, qui ístuc efficias opus.

Phron.
Cedo, quamquam parum est.

Strat.
Addam etiam unam minam istuc post.

Phron.
Parumst.

Strat.
Tuo arbitratu quod iubebis dabitur. da nunc savium.

Ph.
Mitte me, inquam, odiosu's.

St.
Nil fit, non amor, teritur dies.
plus decem pondo † moris pauxillisper perdidi.

Phron.
Accipe hoc atque auferto intro.

Strabax
Vbi mea amicast gentium?
neque ruri neque hic óperis quicquam facio, corrumpor situ,
ita miser cubando in lecto hic expectando obdurui.
sed eccam video. heús amica, quid agis? mille.

Strat.
Quis illic est homo?

Phron.
Quém ego ecastor mage amo quam te. ...

Strat.
Quam me? quo modo?

Phron.
Hoc modo, ut molestus ne sis.

Strat.
Iamne abis, postquam aurum habes?

Phron.
Condidi intro quod dedisti.

Strab.
Ades, amica, te adloquor.

Phron.
At ego ad te ibam, mea delicia.

Strab.
Hercle vero serio,
quamquam ego tibi videor stultus, gaudere aliqui me volo;
nam quamquam tu es bella, malo tuo, nisi ego aliqui gaudeo.

Ph.
Vin te amplectar, savium dem?

Strab.
Quidvis face qui gaudeam.

Strat.
Meosne ante oculos ego illam patiar alios amplexarier?
mortuom hercle me hodie satiust. apstine hoc, mulier, manum,
nisi si te mea manu † ui in machaera et hunc vis mori.

Phron.

Nil halapari satiust, miles, si te amari postulas;
auro, hau ferro deterrere potes, hunc né amem, Stratophanes.

Strat.
Qui, malum, bella aut faceta es, quaé ames hominem isti modi?

Ph.
Venitne in méntem tibi quod verbum in cavea dixit histrio:
omnes homines ad suom quaestum callent et fastidiunt.

Strat.
Huncine hominem te amplexari tam horridum ac tam squalidum?

Ph.
Quamquam hic squalet, quamquam hic horret, scitus et bellust mihi.

Strat.
Dedin ego aurum —

Phron.
Mihi? dedisti filio cibaria.
nunc, si hanc tecum esse speras, alia opust auri mina.

Strab.
Malam rem is et magnam magno opere, serva tibi viaticum.

Strat.
Quid isti debes?

Phron.
Tria.

Strat.
Quae tria nam?

Phron.
Vnguenta, noctem, savium.

Strat.

Par pari respondet. verum nunc saltem, etsi istunc amas,
dan tu mihi de tuis deliciis † sum quicquid pauxillulum?

Phron.
Quid id, amabo, est quod dem? dic tum super feri†
†capas dicit auaui consultam istuc mihi homo†
cave faxis volnus tibi iam cui sunt dentes ferrei.

Strab.
Volgo ad se omnis intromittit.

Strat.
Abstine istac tu manum.

Strab.
Iam hercle cum magno malo tu vapula vir strenuos.

Strat.
Dedi ego huic aurum.

Strab.
Át ego argentum.

Strat.
†eat apale puram.

Strab.
At ego oves et lanam, et alia multa quae poscet dabo.
meliust te minis certare mecum quam minaciis.

Phron.
Lepidu's ecastor mortalis, mi Strabax, perge obsecro.

Ast.
Stultus atque insanus damnis certant: nos salvae sumus.

Strat.
Age prior prompta aliquid.

Strab.
Immo tu prior perde et peri.

Strat.
Em tibi talentum argenti. †Philippices est, tene tibi.

Phron.
Tanto melior, noster esto — sed de vostro vivito.

Strat.
Vbi est quod tu das? solve zonam, provocator. quid times?

Strab.
Tu peregrinu's, hic ego habito: non cum zona ego ambulo:
pecua ad hanc collo in crumina ego obligata defero.
quid dedi! ut discinxi hominem.

Strab.
Immo ego vero, qui dedi.

Phron.
I intro, amabo, i, tú eris mecum; tum tu eris mecum quidem.

Strat.
Quid tu? quid ais? cum hocin eris? ego ero posterior, qui dedi?

Phron.
Tu dedisti iam, hic daturust: ictuc habeo, hoc expeto.
verum utrique mos geratur amborum ex sententia.

Strat.
Fiat. ut rem gnatam video, hoc accipiundumst quod datur.

Strab.
Meum quidem te lectum certe óccupare non sinam.

Phron.
Lepide ecastor aucupavi atque ex mea sententia,

meamque ut rem video bene gestam, vostram rursum bene geram:
†romabo si quis animatust facere, faciat ut sciam.
Veneris causa adplaudite: eius haec in tutelast fabula.
spectatores, bene valete, plaudite atque exurgite.

The Biography

A well preserved Roman theatre in Bosra, Syria

INTRODUCTION TO PLAUTUS by Paul Nixon

Little is known of the life of Titus Maccius Plautus. He was born about 255 B.C. at Sarsina, in Umbria; it is said that he went to Rome at an early age, worked at a theatre, saved some money, lost it in a mercantile venture, returned to Rome penniless, got employment in a mill and wrote, during his leisure hours, three plays. These three plays were followed by many more than the twenty extant, most of them written, it would seem, in the latter half of his life, and all of them adapted from the comedies of various Greek dramatists, chiefly of the New Comedy. Adaptations rather than translations they certainly were. Apart from the many allusions in his comedies to customs and conditions distinctly Roman, there is evidence enough in Plautus's language and style that he was not a close translator. Modern translators who have struggled vainly to reproduce faithfully in their own tongues, even in prose, the countless puns and quips, the incessant alliteration and assonance in the Latin lines, would be the last to admit that Plautus, writing so much, writing in verse, and writing with such careless, jovial, exuberant ease, was nothing but a translator in the narrow sense of the term.

Very few of his extant comedies can be dated, so far as the year of their production in Rome is concerned, with any great degree of certainty. *The Miles Gloriosus*appeared about 206, the *Cistellaria* about 202, *Stichus* in 200, *Pseudolus* in 191 B.C.; the *Truculentus*, like *Pseudolus*, was composed when Plautus was an old man, not many years before his death in 184 B.C.

Welcome as a full autobiography of Plautus would be, in place of such scant and tasteless biographical morsels as we do have, only less welcome, perhaps, would be his own stage directions for his plays, supposing him to have written stage directions and to have written them with something more than even modern fullness. We should learn how he met the stage conventions and limitations of his day; how successfully he could, by make-up and mannerism, bring

on the boards palpably different persons in the Scapins and Bobadils and Doll Tear-sheets that on the printed page often seem so confusingly similar, and most important, we should learn precisely what sort of dramatist he was and wished to be.

If Plautus himself greatly cared or expected his restless, uncultivated, fun-seeking audience to xiiicare, about the construction of his plays, one must criticize him and rank him on a very different basis than if his main, and often his sole, object was to amuse the groundlings. If he often took himself and his art with hardly more seriousness than does the writer of the vaudeville skit or musical comedy of to-day, if he often wished primarily to gain the immediate laugh, then much of Langen's long list of the playwright's dramatic delinquencies is somewhat beside its intended point.

And in large measure this — to hold his audience by any means — does seem to have been his ambition: if the joke mars the part, down with the part; if the ludicrous scene interrupts the development of the plot, down with the plot. We have plenty of verbal evidence that the dramatist frequently chose to let his characters become caricatures; we have some verbal evidence that their "stage business" was sometimes made laughably extravagant; in many cases it is sufficiently obvious that he expected his actors to indulge in grotesqueries, well or ill timed, no matter, provided they brought guffaws. It is probable, therefore, that in many other cases, where the tone and "stage business" are not as obvious, where an actor's high seriousness might elicit catcalls, and burlesque certainly would elicit chuckles, Plautus wished his players to avoid the catcalls.

This is by no means the universal rule. In the writer of the *Captivi*, for instance, we are dealing with a dramatist whose aims are different and higher. Though Lessing's encomium of the play is one to which not all of us can assent, and though even the *Captivi* shows some technical flaws, it is a work which must be rated according to the standards we apply to a *Minna von Barnhelm* rather than according to those applied to a *Pinafore*: here, certainly, we have comedy, not farce.

But whatever standards be applied to his plays their outstanding characters, their amusing situations, their vigour and comicality of dialogue remain. Euclio and Pyrgopolynices, the straits of the

brothers Menaechmus and the postponement of Argyrippus's desires, the verbal encounter of Tranio and Grumio, of Trachalio and the fishermen — characters, situations, and dialogues such as these should survive because of their own excellence, not because of modern imitations and parallels such as Harpagon and Parolles, the misadventures of the brothers Antipholus and Juliet's difficulties with her nurse, the remarks of Petruchio to the tailor, of Touchstone to William.

Though his best drawn characters can and should stand by themselves, it is interesting to note how many favourite personages in the modern drama and in modern fiction Plautus at least prefigures. Long though the list is, it does not contain a large proportion of thoroughly respectable names: Plautus rarely introduces us to people, male or female, whom we should care to have long in the same house with us. A real lady seldom appears in these comedies, and — to approach a paradox — when she does she usually comes perilously close to being no lady; the same is usually true of the real gentleman. The generalization in the Epilogue of *The Captives* may well be made particular: "Plautus finds few plays such as this which make good men better." Yet there is little in his plays which makes men — to say nothing of good men — worse. A bluff Shakespearean coarseness of thought and expression there often is, together with a number of atrocious characters and scenes and situations. But compared with the worst of a Congreve or a Wycherley, compared with the worst of our own contemporary plays and musical comedies, the worst of Plautus, now because of its being too revolting, now because of its being too laughable, is innocuous. His moral land is one of black and white, mostly black, without many of those really dangerous half-lights and shadows in which too many of our present day playwrights virtuously invite us to skulk and peer and speculate.

Comparatively harmless though they are, the translator has felt obliged to dilute certain phrases and lines.

The text accompanying his version is that of Leo, published by Weidmann, 1895-96. In the few cases where he has departed from this text brief critical notes are given; a few changes in punctuation have been accepted without comment. In view of the wish of the

Editors of the Library that the text pages be printed without unnecessary defacements, it has seemed best to omit the lines that Leo brackets as un-Plautine: attention is called to the omission in each case and the omitted lines are given in the note; the numbering, of course, is kept unchanged. Leo's daggers and asterisks indicating corruption and lacunae are omitted, again with brief notes in each case.

The translator gladly acknowledges his indebtedness to several of the English editors of the plays, notably to Lindsay, and to two or three English translators, for a number of phrases much more happily turned by them than by himself: the difficulty of rendering verse into prose — if one is to remain as close as may be to the spirit and letter of the verse, and at the same time not disregard entirely the contributions made by the metre to gaiety and gravity of tone — is sufficient to make him wish to mitigate his failure by whatever means. He is also much indebted to Professors Charles Knapp, K. C. M. Sills, and F. E. Woodruff for many valuable suggestions.

Brunswick, Me.,
September, 1913.

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Vaticanus Ursinianus (D), 11th century.
Leidensis Vossianus (V), 12th century.
Ambrosianus (E), 12th century.
Londinensis (J), 12th century.

P = the supposed archetype of BCDVEJ.

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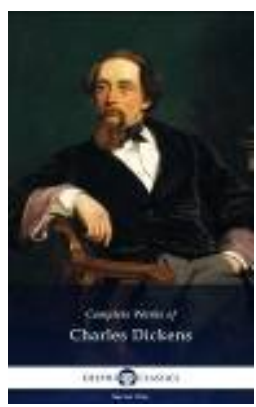

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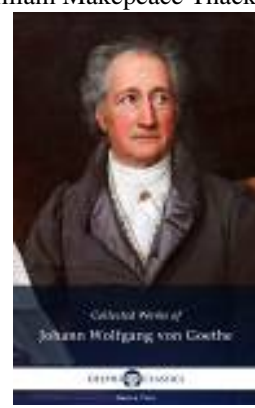

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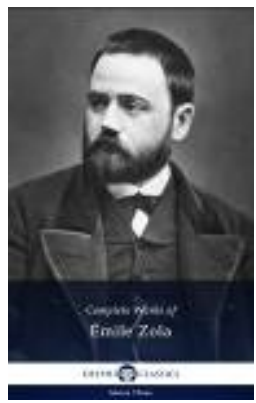

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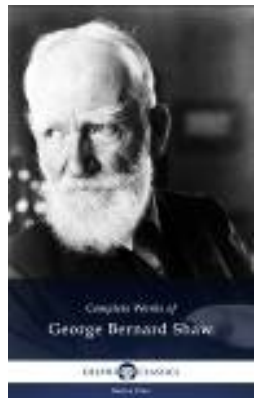

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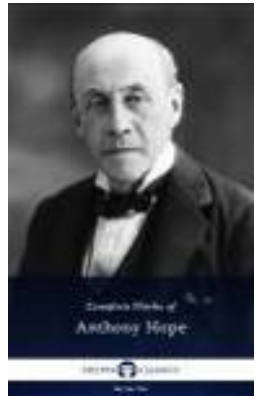

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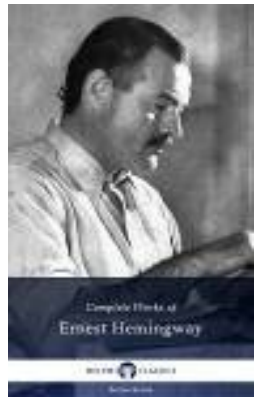

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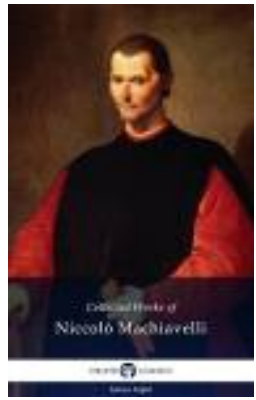

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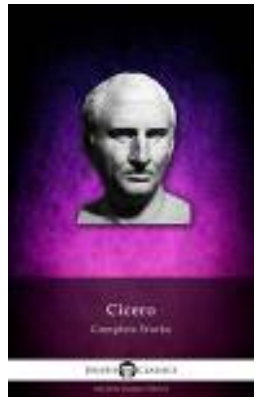

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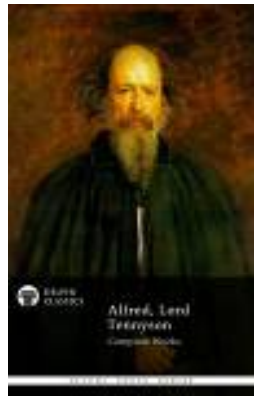

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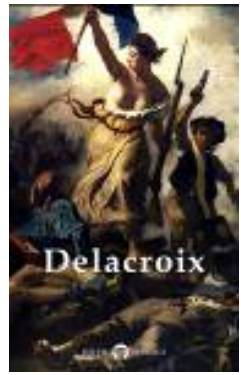

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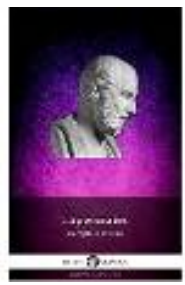

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Sallust
Samuel Butler
Samuel Johnson
Samuel Pepys
Samuel Richardson
Samuel Taylor Coleridge
Sandro Botticelli
Sappho
Sax Rohmer
Seneca the Younger
Septuagint
Sheridan Le Fanu
Sigmund Freud
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
Sir Issac Newton
Sir Philip Sidney
Sir Richard Burton
Sir Thomas Malory
Sir Thomas Wyatt
Sir Walter Raleigh
Sir Walter Scott
Sophocles
Stanley J. Weyman
Statius

Stendhal
Stephen Crane
Strabo
Suetonius
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Tacitus
Talbot Mundy
Terence
Theocritus
Theodore Dreiser
Thomas Babington Macaulay
Thomas Carlyle
Thomas Chatterton
Thomas De Quincey
Thomas Gainsborough
Thomas Gray
Thomas Hardy
Thomas Hardy (poetry)
Thomas Hood
Thomas Middleton
Thomas Moore
Thucydides
Tibullus
Tintoretto
Titian
Tobias Smollett
Torquato Tasso
Victor Hugo
Vincent van Gogh
Virgil
Virginia Woolf
Voltaire
W. B. Yeats
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Washington Irving
Wassily Kandinsky
Wilfred Owen
Wilkie Collins
William Blake
William Cowper

William Dean Howells
William Harrison Ainsworth
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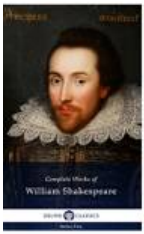

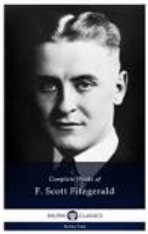

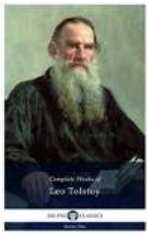

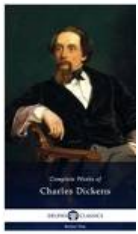

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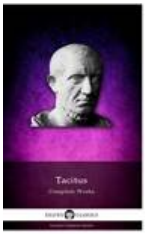

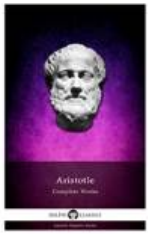

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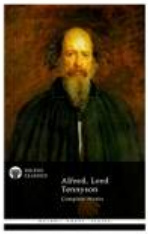

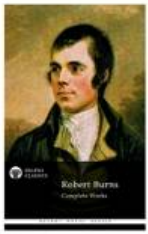

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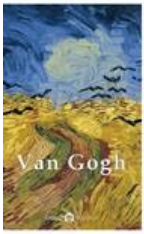

Very little is known of Plautus' life — Rome was likely the location of his death.